

The
Perkins Family
in
ye Olden Times

THE CONTENTS OF A SERIES OF LETTERS
BY THE LATE
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"You may partake of anything we say."

EDITED AND PRIVATELY PRINTED BY

D. W. PERKINS, UTICA, N. Y.

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CHAPTER I.

INTRODUCTORY

Dear Mr. Perkins:

Nearly forty years ago I was fond of historical genealogy and afterwards, when living in London, occupied some of my little spare time in hunting up matters and persons interesting in our early English history, from old records, etc. I never touched family genealogy except to assist a friend or a genealogist, but during thirty years I must have written a good many letters to various persons about various families, and I think I must have read some hundreds of Perkins wills. I do not remember children's names, etc. I had no clue of that sort.

I should be pleased to know your present object. If you wish to make a general collection I might find you a few things among my heaps of manuscripts of all dates, in various languages, and on nearly all subjects, and you might possibly in such a collection light upon an additional clue. Your notes will very likely refresh my memory and assist me to make out the meaning of memoranda scribbled on all sorts of documents on various subjects and which I cannot myself make out now.

I helped Col. Chester in his search for Perkins and some other names, and I have all (I believe) of the known Perkins and Parkyns pedigrees with additions from wills, etc., and I am now working them up for Miss Sharp. Col. Chester also had them all; and if he could not express any decided opinion then I need not say that with the rust of so many years on my memory, it is not likely that I could express any opinion now, except what is founded on what appears in your notes and letters and in Dr. George A. Perkins' Genealogy.

I once thought of collecting every Perkins item I met down to 1700, for the benefit of "*our American cousins*," but I had not time, and most of what I did has, in the last sixteen or eighteen years, gone into the hands of various friends and one great enemy — "Time" — the devourer of all things.

I wish I had preserved my notes of other matters for your sake, but I never did anything for myself and so, with these few exceptions, all that I had were given away as soon as made.

Your remark as to my probable knowledge of the position occupied two or three centuries ago by representatives of the family suggests that you do not fully realize the number of persons of the name then in England: about (say) A. D. 1600, you would find them in nearly every (untitled) position, profession, or trade — down to the lowest. In the lottery of life, as in all lotteries, there are many blanks, a good number of small prizes, and but few very great ones; and so it is with our namesakes.

From your notes and letters I gather that you would like "*anything*" in the shape of notes that I can find or decipher. I use many words and much time tearing up and writing over and over again, because from habit of writing to professionals I cannot yet tell exactly what points I need or need not explain, and so very likely I explain much that you already understand and do not explain where I ought. You will see that I am, as it were, talking the matter over with you as if in conversation, telling you my notions just as they occur to me, and not laying down the law. So I hope you will freely argue or dispute anything which you do not agree to, or call attention to points you wish to have explained. I have written fully what occurred to me, because you may chance to find something to fit with some knowledge you have and which I should have omitted if I tried to condense; and other of the notes may be useful in other ways.

You hope I will point out mistakes. I would willingly do so, because, having helped a good many people in various matters besides genealogy, I know from experience that the very best assistance is given in criticising mistakes. It is useless to supply people with information till they have learned how to properly assimilate it. It only disagrees with them and gives them trouble.

I have had no opportunity with you because you chiefly send me statements of other persons without any indication of how far you believe or disbelieve them. My interest in all these questions depends on how far I can be of use to you.

If, in what I have written you, you can find anything useful to you or worth extracting for your friends, omitting (as you promise) anything in the nature of criticism or which could perchance (to use a familiar expression) "tread on anyone's tender corns," I shall be very much pleased. I hope you will understand, therefore, I have only endeavored, in this long letter, to supply you with a little very raw material for your use and consideration, if you find anything useful, without venturing to express any opinion of my own which would possibly mislead you, and especially I trust you will not repeat any of my remarks which might be misconstrued either into unkindness or disrespect.

You wish me to express my opinion as to the early American Perkins settlers. I have no sufficient data to form any opinion except that the various American traditions, etc., that I have heard, appear to suggest a belief in descent from our Nottinghamshire family, and that they held in America the same position that those in the neighborhood of Newent held in England, highly respectable and in many cases influential yeomen or tradesmen.

I am afraid that the chances are very great against your finding a will of a person with a Scriptural name which would furnish you with a clue. In the first place, a large proportion of people died without wills, and of the wills that were made many are lost and only a few copies can now be found, and of those only a casual inspection has

been made. Separate wills are seldom of much use; their contents need fitting together with others.

Your notes suggest a *general* collection such as I once thought of — a long and laborious way to John Perkins, Senior — if that is your object. Say, for instance, there *may* be somewhere in England a will which may mention a John Perkins and some children whose names would seem to identify him as the emigrant. How many *hundreds* of wills would you *probably* have to carefully examine before you arrived at that one will — if it exists?

I will do what I can for you and if I live long enough (I am *very* near the allotted “three score years and ten”) I may be able to do more, directly and indirectly, when the British Record Society attacks the London Probate Registry. I know nothing about that Society, except what you have told me, and from a printed circular, but I cannot help fancying (perhaps incorrectly) that you are missing a golden opportunity which you will never have again. No doubt the persons employed by the Society on the calendars have (as I formerly had) free access to the wills, so that they could give you a short abstract of the Perkins wills, enough for you to know and which would be useful to you, for very trifling cost: for instance, the names of children and locality. A *few* dollars I should think would procure for you a short abstract of each of them, and so, for a trifling annual sum you would in a few years obtain a valuable collection, instead of many hundreds of mere names, Johns, Williams, Richards, etc., which would only be a source of trouble and expense. You would not know where to begin with your search and in “search fees” and other charges you would have to spend for each will examined and copied probably five times as much as now. There appear to have been seventy-five such wills in the Lichfield diocese before 1625, that is, including the date of probable death of the parents of the first emigrants.

I think you are right to wait for the calendars of wills, though I fear it is a remote chance that you will find anything from them. Failing these calendars, I was wondering when I last wrote you whether an advertisement in a clerical newspaper would lead clergymen to search their Registers for any of the children of John and Judith Perkins, the dates of birth being mentioned. I have always searched for myself and know nothing about arrangements with clergymen, but our clergyman here does not think an advertisement would answer; but it might be worth trying if other means failed. Without some such clue it would be a costly matter to order a search on “spec.”, unless you had some friend to undertake it. A friend of mine lately wrote to a clergyman to search for a name; it was *not* found and she had to pay £2 2s (two guineas, \$10.50) for nothing. The most valuable Inquisitions are the Inquisitions Post Mortem, but they refer to considerable land owners.

To confess the truth, my “theories” were partly (if not chiefly) intended to wean you from directing attention to *one* English family

by showing that the coats-of-arms, traditions, etc., pointed more strongly to the Nottinghamshire, than to the Ufton, family. Any other English family would have served the purpose as well but for the Newent tradition.

If I knew what books you have examined I might stumble on some that you have not. I must also caution you about "reliable" English works. The Harleian Society's Parish Registers and their editions of Colonel Chester's Marriage Licenses and such works are reliable, but Mr. Greenstreet was *nearly* right in what he said to Mr. A. T. Perkins of Visitation Pedigrees. The last two or three generations (within the knowledge of the persons who attested the pedigree) may generally be trusted; beyond that they are (as Mr. Phillimore says in his introduction to the *Harleian Society's Visitation of Worcestershire*) "*useful*," but should be viewed as *rough guides*, which cannot supersede separate investigation.

County histories are "*useful*" in the *same way*. Some few are very useful from giving marginal references to records. Very many are worse than useless — full of misleading rubbish.

I must also caution you against the habit of jotting down all sorts of items obtained from all sorts of sources and without references. I only mention this for your guidance, as the absence of references causes one to make more mistakes than usual. It is a good plan to always give references to notes. I had some months of trouble, some years ago, from a friend of mine having accepted a good deal of information as having come from a professional genealogist of reliable character, though in fact it was a mixture of many people's opinions and suggestions; and I have seen in printed books sentences, referring to English families, hardly one of which is not full of mistakes. There is one other danger that I have some reason to apprehend: From what you have sent me I see plainly that Mr. Somerby, Mr. Turner, Mr. Whitmore, Miss Sharp and I have been misunderstood, so that information we have given has served to mislead when it has been intended to assist. I will send you shortly a few corrections of your notes and any explanatory notes I can find. I have lent my copy of *Letters Concerning the Perkins Family*, and mislaid the notes I wrote for you some months ago, unless they were sent in the missing letter.

Have the parish registers been examined for possible earlier Perkinses?

CHAPTER II.

THE NAME

Surnames in England were not common before the eleventh century, though they were used occasionally. Scriptural names came with Christianity, and the Normans introduced them into England. During the three centuries following the Conquest people began to gradually assume some surname of place or characteristic, and then one of family.

Brothers would often assume different surnames, hence it is difficult to trace the pedigree of any family beyond the thirteenth century. The mingling of Norman with English names created a chaos, many callings, places and nicknames being translated into French and then Anglicized, while others were Latinized.

In Great Britain there are nearly 50,000 surnames derived from every conceivable source, and the commonest are Smith, Jones, Taylor, Williams, Brown, Davies, Thomas and Robinson. In America the proportion is about the same.

In Wales there are districts in which family surnames are not yet known and there are places all over Great Britain in which nicknames or sobriquets like those of the Middle Ages are in general use.—*Encyclopedia*.

I am not philologist enough to trace the origin of the well-known English Christian names ending in *kin*, such as Parkyn (or Perkin), Simpkin, Wilkin, Jankyn (Jenkin), Watkin, etc., but I imagine they were early English forms or diminutives of the more classical Peter, Simon, William, John, Walter, etc., the *kin* being of Flemish origin. Possibly even of British origin, for they seem more common in Wales and in the Marcher Counties, where Jenkin and Watkin are not uncommon baptismal names in the present day.

Peterkin and Fritzkin are (in German) diminutives applied playfully to children, as we might say Tommy, or Freddy, not at all to distinguish them from their fathers who might be named Carl, or any other name. "Perkyn" may be quite as ancient a Christian name as "Parkyn" in some parts of England, depending on local pronunciation.

As a rule, with, I think, very few exceptions, English surnames derived from Christian names were either the name itself or with "*s*" or "*son*" added. So, while the Welsh would be *Ap Jenkin*, the Scotch *Mac, Jan*, the English, would be *Johns, Johnes, Jones, or Johnson*.

Nearly all Welsh names are of two forms derived from Christian names either ending in "*s*" or with the old "*ab*" or "*ap*" changed into "*B*" or "*P*," as *Ab Evan, Bevan or Evans; Ap Howell, Powell or Howells; Ap Harry, Parry or Harris, etc.* So, in the Midland Counties the "*s*" was not added for ornament, as has been suggested, but was the *Welsh* equivalent to the *English* "*son*."

In South Wales where I have lived the names are mostly Jones, Williams, Evans, Roberts, Jenkins, Watkins, etc. The Monmouth and Brecon militia had no less than thirty-six John Jones-es on its muster-

roll, and it was at a somewhat later period a matter of notoriety that a large Welsh village was, with the exception of two or three individuals, entirely populated with Williams-es. If I were inclined to speculate, I think I should lean to the more common Shropshire name of *More*; and probably to a Welsh descent without the "British Kings" of "Welsh Pedigrees," the length of which seems to have depended on the length of the owner's purse. It is said that one was so very long that after a long line of British Kings occurred a note: "*During this reign Adam was created.*"

In this parish and county (Nottinghamshire) the majority of the names are even now, though so mixed up by railways, etc., Richardson, Parkinson, Dickson, Watson, Wilkinson, Jephson, Robinson, etc. There was a man named "*Roberts*" here, but, like myself (the only other name of the kind ending in "s") probably of western origin.

Perkins and Parkins are merely Welsh (or western county) forms of Perkin's son, Parkin's son, and in England Parkinson. The word "*kins*" has never (I believe) been used in England, "*kin*" being of itself plural, and in the sense of kindred or relatives.

And here is an authority:

"In England when the patronymic was used the word '*son*' was usually affixed, as John Adamson. In Wales, 'on the contrary, no affix was used, but the paternal name 'was put in *the genitive*, as Griffith William's, David John's 'or Jone's, Rees Harry's or Harri's, etc.

It is a mistake to suppose there was only one family of Perkins or Parkyns, Perkin or Parkyn being the commonest form of the more classical Peter. There were and are, no doubt, hundreds of distinct families whose surnames, Parkyn, Perkin, Parkyns, Perkins, Parkinson, Perkinson, etc., derive from as many different ancestors who happen to have been named Parkyn or Perkin, as is the case with all surnames derived from Christian names, trades, etc. It would (I should think) be hard to find a Parish Register in England without the name of some descendant of an ancient Perkin.

In England people of the same family name are commonly supposed to be of the same family. It is quite natural and the same appears in what you have sent me and in Mr. Turner's commission from America to find out what he could about the family of Parkins or Perkins in England, though he could not obtain a clue to even what part of England the family lived in. Mr. Turner very soon found that there were families of the name all over England, as you will see from the list of matriculations he sent me.

My impression is (from what comparatively little I have examined) that at that date (1600) the name "Perkins" would be to a considerable extent, *local*, frequent in some parts of England, but not generally so.

The general change from "*ar*" to "*er*" and "*y*" to "*i*" (not only in our

name but the language) appears to have begun from a pedantic passion for Latinizing everything in the reign of Elizabeth (1558-1603) and James I. (1603-1625). Perhaps from the pronunciation of the western counties through closed teeth, sounding their "ar" like "er," "Parkyns" became "Perkins" and was so spelled, although it continued pronounced as formerly spelled to the present day; including some of the greatest titles of nobility, as the Marquis of Hertford, the Earls of Berkley, Berkshire and Derby; Bertie, Earl of Abingdon; Berkeley, Earl of Fitzhardinge, etc., all pronounced as if spelled with "ar," as are also the counties from which those titles are derived, and such word as "clerk," always pronounced "clark," unless by what we call "cockneys," viz.: Londoners of the lower classes.

In Latin deeds, epitaphs, etc., and when a man signed an English deed or will with the Latin "*per me*," the name would sometimes appear "Perkins," although the man himself wrote it "Parkyns" or "Parkins" in private correspondence, and was always so named in the document. At least it so appears in the existing copies of two wills; but perhaps from the mistake of the copier as the signature of a man (perhaps on his deathbed) would not always be very clear.

The Harleian Society's Marriage Licenses, London, afford evidence as to the change of name from "Parkyns" to "Perkins" in that neighborhood at least.

In the first volume (1520-1610) you will find in the index several "Parkins," but no "Perkins." If you turn to the text you will find that the spelling "Parkins" is only a fancy of the worthy editor, Mr. Armytage; that "Parkyns" was printed in the text in nearly all cases of the original (copied by Col. Chester) and is old-fashioned, though he spells his own name with a "y" instead of the general "Armitage."

In the second volume it is just the reverse — very few "Parkins" or "Parkens," several "Perkins," after 1610.

The worst of printed books and even copies of documents is that unless copiers are instructed to give the exact spelling, abbreviated or not, they are apt to translate according to their own notions, like Mr. Armytage. So, much depended on the fancy of the clerk who wrote or copied wills, pedigrees, etc.

The Lichfield wills, London notes, etc., confirm what I before pointed out, viz.: that the earlier the date the more "Parkyns" and the later the date the more "Perkins," and if the names were pronounced as written by their owners it would be even more apparent, and also the fact that "Perkins" was used much earlier in the western counties than in the eastern, including London. This is all in favor of your traditional descent from a western county. No doubt "Perkins" may be found in other districts, but I cannot say, for I have not examined them.

The Ufton pedigree was signed "*Francis Parkyns*," who knew his name and signature probably better than anyone else, and who added

that he had written this name "Francis Parkyns." Some copier or printer has changed this second to "Francis Perkins." You can see this same thing in *Letters Concerning the Perkins Family* (Salem, Mass.) page 10, where the name is misprinted "Francis Perkins" on his certificate (as in the Herald's Latin spelling).

In the pedigree from which it was copied it is in both cases "Francis Parkyns," as it was pronounced and *commonly* written in those days. Ashmole, writing in 1665, speaks of Richard Perkins and Lady Mervyn his wife, though just below appears

"RICHARD PARKINS"

copied by himself or his draughtsman from the tomb.

You will notice that *Underwood*, who signed the 1623 pedigree for Francis Parkyns of Ufton only certifies for the latter; that is, for the latter part of the pedigree. The Ufton family was not certainly fixed to "Perkins" when John Perkins, Senior, was a full grown man; the family began to write their name "Perkins" some time after 1623.

I think in your researches you should notice carefully the spelling "Perkins" if it appears to be established in a family or locality considerably before 1600. That is one of the reasons in favor of the neighborhood of Newent, where at least we find the name "Perkins" at a much earlier date.

I have obtained some books on names and I cannot find one from old Camden down to Webster's Dictionary and M. A. Lower that differs from what I have expressed from my own observation, without reference to authorities. But so far as I have observed and consistently with the general change in the language, there were more "*Pars*" before and more "*Pers*" after a given period; particularly in the matter of the fess between billets (in the Perkins coat-of-arms).

From "Piers" or "Peris" we have the surnames Piers, Pears, Pierce, Pearce, Pierson, Pearson, etc. It is curious that it should not have been observed that in a printed book, on the same page with Pierre and Pierrekin, the correct Norman-French form of Piers Gaveston (as generally spelled) is given, though in the year books of Edward I. and Edward II. it is always "Peris"; or that, a few pages further, the English Christian name of "Perkin Warbeck" is also given. I can show you, if you like, as an example of how such questions should be examined, distinct evidence of at least a dozen mistakes (including misapprehension of Mr. Bardsley's meaning) in the few lines in which is the writer's view as to the derivation of the name from "Pierrekins."

You have in your notes (Wales, 1540) the exact case I have suggested to you. If the person who translated the Ufton pedigree in Latin had done the same thing for the Welsh pedigree you mention, you would have had it in the same style. "Petrus" being Latin for Perkin as well as Peter, he would have explained how the descendants of "Perkin Brown" became surnamed "Perkyn" instead of "Peter" by

putting it in his Latin version — Petrus Brown, alias Perkyn. His son Lewis ap Perkyn (Perkyn's son) would have been "Lewis filius Peter," just as in the Ufton pedigree — "Petrus Morley, alias Perkin."

Exactly the same occurs in other pedigrees, *c. g.*, the great family of "Jones" (now Herbert) of Llanarth, County Monmouth, which you will find in Burke's Commoners (Vol. 4, p. 727) of Norman origin and settled in the borders of Wales; in process of time they dropped the "Fitz" for the "Ap." One of them, Adam Fitz Herbert, had a son "John Herbert ap Adam alias Jenkin"; that is, his name appears as John (or perhaps Johannes) in deeds or something of that sort, but was really Jenkin, and his son appears in like manner "William ap Jenkin," though his real name was "Gwillim ap Jenkin" and his son "Howell ap Gwillim"; after which we are purely Welsh for some generations: "Jenkin ap Howell," "David ap Jenkin," "Thomas ap David ap Jenkin," till we get rather more classified in a *bona fide* "John" (instead of "Jenkin") ap Thomas, whose son William ap John adopted the perhaps more fashionable English "*s*" instead of its equivalent "*ap*" and became William ap John or "Jones," and founder of the family of Llanarth.

I need not say there are scores of families of "Johns," "Johnes," and, most of all, "Jones," who have no connection with the above, but the pedigree shows that numerous families of different names did descend from the same stock.

The above Howell ap Gwillim was third son of Gwillim ap Jenkin. From the eldest son's grandson (Thomas *ap Roger*) descended the family of Roger of Werndu. From the second son descended the Morgans of Arxton. From the third son the Jones of Llanarth, as above. From the fourth son the Herberts, Earls of Pembroke; and so on with other families.

I have given you rather a long sermon on this question because, to me, the interesting part of genealogy is the history (of all kinds) it leads to; and also to point out to you that there were not only several "branches," but in all probability, if they could be traced, many distinct families of the same surname, derived from ancestors who had the same Christian name, though in no way related to each other.

Another difficulty appears in the Christian names of the early settlers. We have so many (from wills, etc.) of the same Christian name, for instance four of the name of Thomas Perkins, who were none sons of the others, and who all died between 1545 and 1558. Christian names and occasionally surnames of other persons which you may by chance know among the early settlers in America may furnish a clue; for instance, in one of the London wills we find a Whitmore (who appears to have been a "scrivener" from some other document).

For the same purpose I enclose a list of bailiffs of Tewkesbury as containing a good many names of persons in the neighborhood and some mentioned in Perkins wills. You rightly judged that the emigrant

Clarke, mentioned in your letter, could not have been the Tewkesbury bailiff of same name. Clarke is a very common name to which one would attach little importance, but though not the bailiff himself, he might have been a poor cousin; a less common name might have suggested a clue.

"Turffoote" in the list of Tewkesbury bailiffs is, I think, a misprint for "Turfoole," which suggests "my kinsman Tyrvill" in one of Mr. Whitmore's wills.

If Scriptural names were preferred in your branch before 1590, you would be likely to find the will of a Scripture-named member of your family, though you might be led into considerable trouble by following up a Scripture-named person of some other family.

As you say, the name "Humphrey" was not common in England, especially as a Perkins name; and the Lichfield wills seem to a certain extent to support your view of descent from James¹, Humphrey², Humphrey³, as they carry the name of "Humphrey" down to a generation before 1631, showing, with others found in Herefordshire, etc., that it was a favorite name in the family, though the Humphreys mentioned may not have been of the same precise branch; and the later Humphreys were "Perkins."

In your last letter you mention a tradition that "three brothers came over" to America. If we suppose that the fathers of the two Isaacs (of Ipswich and Hampton) were brothers or cousins, it would seem probable that each would name a son Isaac, after their father or grandfather or some ancestor common to both, and that such Scriptural names had been preferred (probably from religious feeling) for a considerable period before 1590, in your family.

Assuming, as I think we may assume, and that (as you suggest) John and Isaac Perkins were brothers and related to Abraham and Isaac Perkins of Hampton, we have proof of two families in England (relations) who, about 1590 to 1600, named their children with Scriptural names which were so frequent among their descendants in America (Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, etc.). Besides, you are not, I think, certain whether Isaac and Abraham were cousins or brothers.

The fact that so few Scriptural named Perkinses have been found (at any date) suggests that their father (perhaps a John, Richard, or William) was the first of your family who adopted Scriptural names for his children. To arrive at the desired end we must look on both sides of the question. His wife's family may have given them to his younger sons, John being the paternal name. This, of course, is pure speculation; the point is, that so far we have not found any such names among the Perkinses of the neighborhood of Newent, Madresfield, etc., and my impression is that among the great number of Perkins names I have seen in my days of hunting for emigrants I have found those Scriptural names almost as rare as "Humphrey." I think I met with

them in a family in the southwest of England (Devonshire or Dorsetshire).

As with the "Thomas"-es, so with the "Humphreys"; you mention the two "Humphrey Perkins," continued in America, whom you believe were related to your family as supporting the tradition. In America, Humphrey appears only once, that is one child taking the place of another; still it suggests a motive, the more forcibly from the rarity of the name (coupled with Perkins) generally, and its frequency in the Madresfield district, where, as above, we find it continued to after the emigration of John Perkins of Ipswich and Abraham of Hampton, and where, I think, it had been a family name for two hundred years before that date (1631) — three or four generations before Humphrey, son of James.

We have Humphrey, son of Humphrey, and grandson of James Parkins, in the "additions" to the Worcestershire Visitation, 1569; another Humphrey Parkins, a soldier in the time of Henry VIII. (1509-1547), and Humphrey Parkyns, mentioned in the will, 1549, of John Parkyns, citizen and turner, of London.

If I am right, we have four Humphreys already and (five) another Humphrey of Clifton, who died in 1561, and was not Humphrey, son of Humphrey Parkins of Clebury Mortimer, for he had no brother Thomas, but two brothers, John and Roger. Clebury is in Shropshire on the border of Worcestershire, some twenty miles from Madresfield, in what I call the northern group, in the direction whence Peter Morley is said to have come and James Parkins to have married; Humphrey of Clebury Mortimer was probably a considerably older man than Humphrey, son of James Parkins. Then in the Worcestershire pedigree we have a Humphrey, seventh son of Walter Perkin, of later date, making probably six of the name, and still later a Humphrey (No. 7), who died at Cradley (close to Madresfield, and about twelve miles north of Newent), and in 1638, in the next parish of Evesbatch the will of a John Perkins (1637) mentioning a *godson*, Humphrey Steward; and a relation of Humphrey Burford, son of a kinswoman (nee) Perkins.

Have you seen *Curiosities of Puritan Nomenclature*, by Bardsley, who has been mentioned as the latest authority on the origin of names?

CHAPTER III.

THE COAT OF ARMS

"*Heraldry* — Great assistance may be derived from Heraldry by those engaged "in archaeological pursuits, and by its help families may be traced from root to "branch, and much that is obscure in alliance, dates, etc., may be made clear."—Heraldry, by S. T. Aveling, 1891.

"*Coat-of-Arms* — Anciently it was a coat or habit worn by princes and great "barons over their armor. It was open at the sides, had short sleeves, was embroidered with cloth of gold or silver, of fur or velvet, enameled with beaten "tin of various colors, and bore armorial devices or insignia.

"As understood in the present day it is nothing more than a relic of the "ancient armorial insignia."—Encyclopedia.

"To be properly entitled to armorial bearings, a person must be descended "in the male line from the first grantee, or from some person to whom and to "whose issue such arms may have been limited in the instrument by which they "were granted. And no person can legally use the coat armour of his maternal "ancestor, even though he be the sole representative of such ancestor; but he "may quarter such arms with his paternal coat if he be an armiger (an attendant "on a knight, or other person of rank, who bore his shield, and rendered him "other military services)."—*The Heraldry of Worcestershire*, Vol. I., p. xviii., by H. Sydney Grazebrook, 1873.

"Circuits of the Heralds, called Visitations, were instituted * * * in 1528-9 "empowering the Herald to * * * enter all houses, castles, and churches, and "to peruse and survey all arms and other devices of all persons within his "province authorized to bear arms; and he was enjoined to enter on record notes "of their descents, marriages, and issues in a register book."—*Heraldry of Worcestershire*, Vol. I, p. xix.

"The present mode of impaling (joining side by side) entire coats was adopted "in the sixteenth century. An heiress * * * must therefore, during the life-time of her father, impale her arms as do other wives who are not heiresses.

"A shield of quarterings begins with the family coat, followed by the arms "of the heiress, whose match appears earliest on the pedigree; then comes the "heiress of next early date, and so on."—*Decorative Heraldry*, by G. W. Eve, 1897.

"In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries the means of communication "between the various countries was difficult and often it was found impossible to "keep track of the younger sons of noble families who had left for foreign lands "in search of adventure and fortune. Consequently when lost sight of they were "usually set down as having 'died abroad without posterity.'"—Newspaper clipping.

Distinctions between "noble" and "ignoble," "gentleman" and "yeoman" or "plebeian" as marked by coats-of-arms, etc., may have been felt in the early days of chivalry when the coat-of-arms on the wearer was his only mark in battle, but by the time of Henry VIII. (1509-1547), country people in England had grown very ignorant and careless about such matters, and not very many ordinary gentlemen used coats-of-arms, unless they were about the Court, or civic dignitaries (Mayors, etc.), or in some position requiring their attendance in state, at processions, etc.

In those days quiet country folk probably seldom troubled themselves about coats-of-arms; the lesser country gentlemen even would seldom use them for any purpose, and so like their junior descendants, the yeomen, would forget all about them.

A country Squire and Justice of the Peace (like Justice Shallow) would, perhaps, have a seal of arms which would go to his eldest son, with the monuments in the church and the title deeds in the strong box.

I have, for curiosity, asked several lately, and found none who knew the difference between the arms and the crest, or who had more than a *vague* notion of "a lion" or "an elephant," etc., which they had seen on a monument or something, without particularly noticing.

Even in these days of electric and other facilities of communication, I have no doubt there are thousands of recent emigrants in various parts of the world, who, though they know that they belong to good and even noble English families, correspond with and even visit their relations in England, have no notions of their coats-of-arms.

Without going abroad, I should think not one English gentleman in one hundred could tell what his coat-of-arms is without referring to books, or monuments, etc.

The Heralds' Visitations were largely for the purpose of correcting mistakes arising from belief in descent from a family that bore the same coat. In all times men naturally adopted those to which they *believed* they were entitled.

The Heralds required *proof of descent from the family* whose arms were borne as evidence of a right to use that coat. Its use only proves *belief* in descent from a family that bore the same coat. That is the difficulty presented by your opinion that the arms borne in America were handed down from ancestors in England.

A genealogist who ventured to reverse this order of things and to accept the unsupported use of a coat-of-arms as any evidence of descent from the family to whom it belonged would get into confusion and trouble. On general principles I should carefully avoid paying any sort of attention to them for genealogical purposes. The practice of the Heralds was to require some proof of arms having been used, and then allow them as "*found registered*."

You can see by the Heralds' Visitations how few descendants of younger sons ever used them, and scarcely any of the thousands of persons who were entitled to do so by holding the King's commission, ecclesiastical preferment, or a degree in any of the liberal sciences; what would they want them for?

Not one of the "yeoman" or "burgess" class would be likely to have or use a coat-of-arms, or after two or three generations in that class to know anything about it. The yeomanry of England are largely composed of the junior descendants of good families who had to earn their living and whose descendants after two or three generations forgot all about the Heralds' "armes and gentrie."

If in future time one of them made a fortune and started as a "gentleman," according to the notions of those days, he hunted up what materials he could find to connect himself with some known family of the name and obtained from the Heralds a coat-of-arms more or less resembling the arms of that family, according to the amount of proof or probability he could produce; or an entirely new coat.

The word "gentleman" appears to have included in those days very much what it means in practice, viz.: every man of superior education and manners. But they had hard and fast rules to determine those qualifications instead of judging them as we do now, by what we find in the man. They required that a man should have graduated at an University; or have been admitted into one of the learned professions; or have held the King's commission for any service, civil or military, etc.; or many more such tests.

A certain amount of landed property seems to have qualified a "yeoman" to hold certain offices and the title of "Mr." A "yeoman" was about the most free and independent of all Englishmen, from the earliest times; he must have been the owner of land of a stated considerable value and had various privileges.

In the time of Henry VIII. (1509-1547) the Heralds were getting so poor from general disregard of such matters that they started their "Visitations," and traveled about like modern "bagmen" trying to get people to believe in the ennobling virtue of coats-of-arms, etc., for the sake of their fees, and did more mischief to history, genealogy, etc., with their blundering pedigrees and coats-of-arms than can be imagined, and that is the reason, as Mr. Greenstreet meant to convey to Mr. A. T. Perkins, not one in ten of the pedigrees can be relied on for anything before the time of Henry VIII. The last two or three generations to date of the Visitation would probably be correct, being within the knowledge of people then living, but we only accept the descents recorded in Visitations when we have proved them.

Almost anyone in England (Heralds included) would understand the arms of the Berkshire branch to be a fess between six billets (figure 1) from its being so given in what are considered authorities. I do not think the Berkshire arms were given in any book published before 1725, but the Heralds put it so in their Visitation pedigree in 1623, and it has been so copied into modern Dictionaries of Arms; but it is a mistake. The Berkshire branch always bore *ten* billets on their tombs, seals, etc., from the earliest known tomb in 1560 to the latest in the eighteenth century.



1. (Incorrect) arms of the Ufton, Berkshire family

Six billets were not carried either from Berkshire or Nottinghamshire by a descendant of either of those families, but were derived

probably from some book or pedigree. It is not unlikely that the Ufton family were ignorant of their arms in 1559; *we have no trace of any monument before that date*, when the widow of Richard Parkyns of Ufton, a very rich woman with no children, spent a large sum among Heralds and genealogists.

Richard Parkyns, then of Berkshire, but afterwards of Nottinghamshire (son of Richard, who was son of William, the eldest son of Thomas of Mattisfelde) then practising as a Barrister of the Inner Temple in London, applied at the College of Arms for his coat-of-arms and crest and probably assisted in tracing the Ufton pedigree and arms for the purpose of inscribing an elaborate heraldic monument to Richard Parkyns of Ufton, just dead.

In that search among old records the arms confirmed to the other Richard Parkyns (of "Mattisfelde") were found to be incorrect and he (the Barrister) never used them; it was and is still on the tomb of Richard, of Bunny, though neither he nor his descendants used it, except (as customary when a family has two coats) quarterly, one and four (first and fourth quarters) ancient, two and three (second and third quarters) modern, as you will see in the Harleian Society's Visitation of Nottinghamshire, published in 1871.



2. Arms of the Bunny, Nottinghamshire, family

Richard Parkyns (afterwards of Bunny, Nottinghamshire) procured his grant and the arms declared found as descended from his ancestors to Richard Parkyns of "Mattisfelde in Berkshire" were a mixture of two coats, eagle and canton (figure 2); but the *pineapple* (heraldic) crest was only *granted* just after the death of Richard Parkyns of Ufton and put on his monument, as stated in the grant, because "*no creaste was found as commonlie to ancient armes there belongid none.*"

Francis Parkyns of Ufton, nephew and heir of Richard of Ufton and heir in remainder to the Nottinghamshire estates if the children of Richard Parkyns had died childless, by settlement, 1600, was the first of the Ufton family who used the pineapple crest, and his epitaph shows complete ignorance of the subject; his family believed the eleven shields on his uncle's monument meant eleven ancestors. His two sons, Francis and Edmund, were both living after 1600, and neither of them would ever have heard of the six billets mistake.

On turning to the Visitation of Berkshire, 1623, of which the original is in the Bodleian Library, Oxford, you will find that the Berkshire family bore "Or, a fess dancette between ten billets" (though six billets are given in the Visitation there are ten on the tombs (figure 3). You will find this ancient coat in the Church of All-hallows in *Oxfordshire Church Notes*.

The Berkshire family bore those arms quarterly with three other coats, the second quarter being "sable, on a chevron between three eagles displayed a mullet gules (figure 4).

That is the coat I asked you if you could tell me to what family it belonged. It is quartered (mullet and all) by John Broke in Gwelwe Church, and by Marmion among Pakenham's quarterings, though on Pakenham's tomb it is blazoned the reverse, *i. e.*, "argent, a chevron between three eagles displayed sable."

I take it to refer to the marriage of William Perkyns (fourth in the Visitation of Berkshire, 1623).

You have Ashmole's evidence that (1625) coats-of-arms were strictly limited to the heads of the Ufton family and lords of the manor. Francis (3rd) missed those positions by dying a year before his father and had no coat-of-arms on his gravestone (quoted by Ashmole) which still exists though he was thirty-eight years of age, the eldest and then only son, and father of the boy who, the year after, succeeded to the lordship and headship of the family.

The Parish Register shows that within ten or twelve years of Ashmole's visit several of the family (from Ufton or Beenham) were buried at Ufton, but none with anything he cared to note. Children would, perhaps, have no more than initials or a few words and date, unless, perhaps, of Royal or very great families for whom the Heralds served as undertakers.

The Ufton family never held high office or position even in their own county; they had been going down in the world for one hundred and fifty years and were extinct.

The Nottinghamshire family held high office and position two hun-



3. (Correct) Arms of the Ufton, Berkshire, family, impaling Mychell



4. Ancient Arms of the Ufton family, quartering Mychell

dred years before 1776, and had been rising ever since; Knighthood in 1603, Baronetcy in 1681, and at last Peerage as Lord Ranccliffe. They were much more wealthy and highly connected than their Ufton kin and were even more sparing of coats-of-arms. Sir George Parkyns, lord of six or eight manors and other estates, and who left a very great personal estate besides (his clothes were valued at twice as much as twenty horses in his stables), had nothing but "here lieth Sir George Parkyns, Knight, son of Richard Parkyns (as in ye monyment above)," name of wife and date of burial (1626), and all told. His eldest son and grandson are as modestly remembered, though any Herald would see at first glance that the nineteen quarterings in the Nottinghamshire Visitation (Harleian Society, 1871) were only a few out of many and would know most of them as well as the Royal arms of England, with which many of them were nearly connected.

The Nottinghamshire family, the eldest line, seem after two generations, to have held property or resided in Berkshire in close connection with the Ufton family; and even in their case the Heralds made at first a hash of it and gave them a mixed-up coat-of-arms, as mentioned in my letter to Mr. Turner.

I wish you could solve the riddle about the coat-of-arms, "Sable, a fess between three eagles displayed argent" (figure 3. Mychell impaled with Parkyns ancient). It puzzled "Bluemantle" (Puirservant) in 1603, when he described it as of "Gervase" in the arms of Sir Christopher Parkins. I have amused myself at the expense of many learned Heralds getting their *various* opinions and then proving them wrong. It is given in Ordinaries to only one family — name, Mychell. I fancy it came from them and think I know how it came, but I cannot *prove* it.

"Eagles" are "birds" in nature, *but not in heraldry*. The eagle coat was borne only, so far as I can ascertain, by the families descended or claiming to descend from Madresfield, Worcestershire, viz., the branches settled in Nottinghamshire, Worcestershire and Ireland.

We have no trace of any of the name using or claiming arms in the neighborhood of Madresfield, Newent, etc., or in that part of England, except at Llandogo and Pilston in Monmouthshire — they obtained arms, but not a fess between billets.

There were seven or eight families of Perkins or Parkyns that bore the *same coat* or (in one or two cases) so nearly the same that without knowledge of heraldry the difference would not be perceived, and not one of them (except the Nottinghamshire family) was (so far as I know) in any way connected with the neighborhood of Newent. Many Perkinses of the Newent neighborhood were undoubtedly related to the Nottinghamshire family, descended from a common ancestor who bore arms, yet as commonly with younger branches they were chiefly "yeomen" who did not use coats-of-arms and did not know anything about them as proved by two or three who, rising in the world, obtained grants of arms,

The two other coats quartered in the Berkshire pedigree refer to later matches with which we had nothing to do. The quartered shield would be designed by a "Herald-painter" at the College of Arms, and a sketch of it preserved there probably led to the same mistake nineteen years after, when the arms of the Ufton pedigree were drawn by the Herald-painter in London from the Herald's notes, often hardly legible. I should think both were the work of the same hand, because both shields, quarterings and all, present a series of mistakes of which one could hardly believe *two* men in the College could be capable, within twenty years.

The fourth quarter of the arms of the Ufton pedigree-shield is a mistake altogether; it has no business there at all, as the person (Dorothy More) represented was not an heiress, though so stated in the pedigree; there again, the tomb is right, for that coat is *impaled*, not quartered.

There are several branches of the family of Parkyns who bear or have borne an eagle for arms. But there is a very important distinction to be observed in the various coats. If you turn to my own family in the list of Baronets at the end of Gwillim's Display, 6th edition (or 5th) you will find the arms there given (from memory): "He beareth or: a fess dancette between ten billets ermines, *but of late times* argent, an eagle displayed sable, in a canton or, a fess dancette, etc." Or, as it might be blazoned, "Argent. an eagle displayed sable, a canton' of Parkyns ancient."

Our arms at the period of separation would therefore be thus tricked (Figure 3).



5. Modern Arms of the Bunny, Nottinghamshire, family

It is easy therefore to guess that by accident from bad drawing, or bad description, or from an imperfect seal, or from *intention*, the compound coat arose, thus (Figure 5). It was so blazoned in a confirmation of the crest to Richard Parkyns by Hervey, Clarencieux (one of the officials of Heralds' College), 1559, as arms descended from his ancestors, but it would seem that he took it either as a second coat or mistook it for a quartering.

You will observe this in a pedigree given in the Visitation of Nottinghamshire published by the Harleian Society, in which two shields are given:

One — One and four (first and fourth quarters) ancient, two and three (second and third quarters) modern (Figure 6).

Two — Quarterly of several coats; one, Parkyns ancient (Figure 2); two, Isham of Walmer, County Kent, etc., etc., the modern coat being entirely omitted in the later shield.

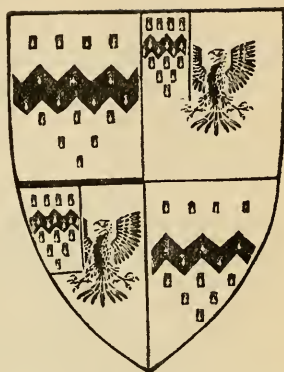
On the tomb of the same Richard Parkyns at Bunny, Nottinghamshire (see Thoroton's history of that county) this new coat is placed as a quartering. It never was borne in the first quarter or alone till the Visitation of Nottinghamshire, 1664, which was attended by my ancestor's steward, who, probably knowing nothing about it, produced, as the best proof, the confirmation of the crest by Hervey, and the arms there blazoned were accepted as the correct arms and have since been borne. You will therefore see that the point in our arms is the canton.

The Nottinghamshire arms, both "ancient" and "modern" (with the eagle addition) were given incorrectly with six billets in Thoroton's *History of Nottinghamshire*, 1677, as the mistake first occurred on a tomb at Bunny in 1603, and correctly with ten billets in a list of Baronets in Gwillim's *Display of Heraldry*, about 1721.

The eagle coat mentioned to Mr. Turner by his American correspondent suggests the modern coat used by the Nottinghamshire family (an eagle displayed with the "ancient" arms in a canton or corner, Figure 5).

From the Berkshire branch probably descended branches found at Guildford and in various parts of Berkshire, Surrey and in London, but these would not bear the eagle. No family of the name bore an eagle only, though several bore one or more eagles in some combination, form or color; among others my own family after 1660; I probably told Mr. Turner of this. After my letter and Ufton pedigrees were sent, as an opening to the families that had an eagle for coat of arms, the whole thing was dropped, perhaps "because of very important matters of business which lasted during three whole years."

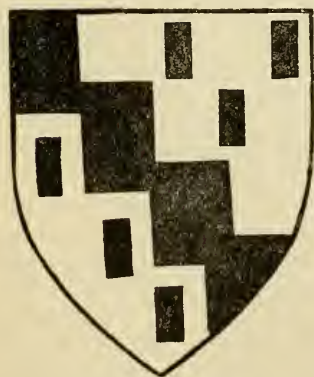
Thus, you have all of those who bore an eagle, as far as I can learn, except Perkins of Leicestershire, which is in Nichols' History, and, I think, carried down in Burke's Landed Gentry and Commoners. The Collee arms* — "argent, a cross wavy" (drawn in the third quarter of that heap of blunders, the coat-of-arms on the Ufton pedigree, as a cross "engrailed" — which represents various other families of various other names), came into the Ufton shield with the heiress of the Collee estate and is correctly drawn "wavy" on one of the shields of Richard Parkyns' tomb.



6. Ancient Arms of the Bunny, Nottinghamshire, family.

*Nash's History of Worcestershire says that the Collee family bore anciently for arms "a chevron between three birds."—Grazebrook's *Heraldry*.

Except in two or three instances, the name does not occur in the Visitations of the three adjacent counties of Gloucestershire, Worcestershire and Herefordshire, that I have seen, even as inter-marrying with other families whose pedigrees are recorded. The family which I have before mentioned as claiming to descend from the ancient British Kings (though the Heralds of that period did not appear to have attached much credit to their "old Welsh pedigree with arms," "a lion passant" which they produced) was of Pilston, in the neighborhood of Madresfield and some twenty miles southeast of Newent, and it seems probable to me now that they might have been a branch of the Madresfield family, though their coat-of-arms was not exactly the same. The Llandogo-Pilston family of Perkins had been settled there for four generations and had married into good families before 1634, at which date they did not know what was their proper coat-of-arms, as William Perkins of Pilston in the parish of Llandogo, County Monmouth, "descended from the family of Perkins of the North" (which would be Hertfordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire, etc.), claimed to bear the arms of Sitsyllt, prince of Merioneth, as paternally descended from him; and a pedigree of six or seven generations is given in the late Visitation of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire. William Perkins obtained from the Heralds a confirmation of another imitation coat-of-arms, "or, a bend dancette between six billets" (Figure 7), and crest — meaning that he could produce probability, but not proof, of descent from the family to which Richard Parkyns of Nottinghamshire (the original grantee of the pineapple crest) belonged.



7. Arms of the Pilston, Monmouthshire family.

The arms granted to them and the other "Perkin" of Worcestershire show that they had some knowledge or tradition of relationship to a family that bore those arms; so, something like the arms of that family was granted to them by the Heralds. If either of them could have proved descent from a common ancestor who bore recorded arms they would have had the same coat with the several "differences" or marks of cadency.

The Worcestershire family, probably a branch of ours, of whom there is a short pedigree in the Philpott MSS. in the College of Arms, bore the same coat as ours except that the canton was sable, a fess dancette or, and no billets (Figure 8). The Madresfield-Worcestershire family married chiefly into Herefordshire, where they also had property, and from them branches appear to have sprung in that and adjacent counties.

Mattisfield in Berkshire *may* have been, as you suggest, the name of some place (a house or farm) given in remembrance of Madresfield — but I think it was only *another* of the *blunders* by which genealogists are now puzzled. The same question about “Mattisfield in Berkshire” introduced me to Mr. Woof, a late Worcester antiquary, who, meeting the pedigree of Mattisfield (Madresfield) County Worcester (which you know has since been published by the Harleian Society) wrote me about 1872 asking my opinion whether “Worcester” was not one of the very common mistakes found in pedigrees. He knew the same pedigree elsewhere as of “Mattisfield in Berkshire.”

We had a great controversy before I could satisfy him at all that “Parkins of Mattisfield” had anything to do with Worcestershire except the usual mistake. He was not quite satisfied about it until he found the “*Court Roll of Madresfield*” and other proofs of the name in *Madresfield, Worcestershire*. I also had a good deal of correspondence with him on various questions of Worcestershire heraldry and genealogy for a book* he was helping



8. Arms of the Worcestershire family

a friend with. Mr. Woof said in a letter I now have that he believed a family of Little of the Parish of Cradley (on the border of Herefordshire and close to Madresfield) used the same arms as given to Little in the pedigree of “Perkin” of County Worcester. Since you have Grazebrook’s Heraldry you might see if they are given. You will perceive the object (from my notes on Newent) that “Perkin,” a mistake for Parkins or Perkins, belonged in the neighborhood of Madresfield, Newent and Tewkesbury.

From the coat-of-arms (Figure 8) assigned to Humphrey Perkin or his son Francis of Worcestershire it seems clear that he *claimed* to be of the family of “Parkins” of the other Worcestershire pedigree. He did not know what his arms were and obtained an imitation of the eagle and canton which had been before confirmed to Richard Parkins (son of Richard, who was son of William, who was son of Thomas). It is a later imitation of the *modern* coat of the Nottinghamshire family, the only difference being in the most important point — the canton, which is black with a gold fess and no billets; and the crest is different.

There were dozens of other families with the fess alone of various names not Perkins, and a good many with billets varying in colors.

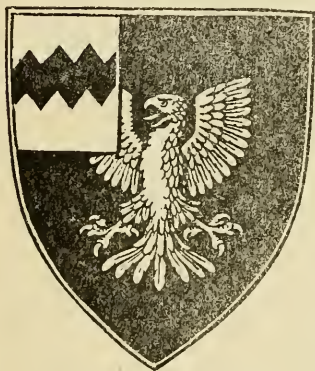
I think a Worcestershire family migrated to Ireland about the time

*The Heraldry of Worcestershire, 2 vols., by H. Sidney Grazebrook, London, 1873.

of Charles I. (1625-1648) or Oliver Cromwell (1653-1658).

"Cole" (mentioned in the "Perkin" pedigree) bears the same coat as "Cole of Northy" (probably *Northway* near Tewkesbury); only by one of the common blunders in heraldic documents a bordure is omitted.

In the Worcester Registry there are four Salford (Warwickshire) wills, presumably of the branch of Rev. William Perkins (of Topsfield, Mass.) which might interest any of his descendants in America. Sir William Parkyns of Marston, Warwickshire, executed April 3, 1696, for Assassination Plot, seems to have supposed himself to belong to the Nottinghamshire family, as he applied in 1682 and received a grant of an imitative or reverse coat, viz.: sable an eagle displayed argent in a canton of the second a fess dancette of the first (Figure 9).



9. Arms (1682) of the Warwickshire family

A family of Steele Perkins of Orton-on-the-Hill, Leicestershire, of whom there is a pedigree in Nichols' History of the county, assumed to bear that coat on the ground of relationship to the Warwickshire family, though if that is at all right it proves they had nothing to do with them or the grantee.

Suffolk has the fess "indented" (instead of "dancette").

I know of books earlier than 1725, but have none now by me. Berry, no doubt, borrowed the contents of all known books before his time, and John Burke ("General Armory," 1843) borrowed *all* Berry — even his mistakes. For example, Berry wrote "Penkin" for "Perkin" County, Worcester. Burke copied it.

Including that coat Burke gives thirteen coats of "Perkins" arms — nine are eagles, lions and various other heraldic charges. Only one of the thirteen has the fess dancette (with three points) between ten billets, and that is Lincolnshire, spelled "Perkins" by mistake for "Parkins."

Ufton has the six billets, and a quite modern supposed branch ditto.

CHAPTER IV.

THE ARMS IN AMERICA

THE ARMS ON THE SEAL

"A deed dated April 29, 1725, given by Dr. John Perkins to John Wainwright, conveying land in Ipswich, Mass., has been found to have appended to the signature of the grantor his seal, of which an engraving is here given (Figure "10). Dr. John Perkins was a brother of Captain Beamsley Perkins of Ipswich, who died July 23, 1720, and whose tombstone is still to be seen in the old burial ground in that town.

"In the tombstone is a sunken space in which was formerly a metal plate containing the Perkins Arms, as is well remembered by many; this plate is now nowhere to be found. "Some years ago, as is believed, a man of gentlemanly appearance came to Ipswich and represented himself as from "New Orleans, stating that he was of the family of Captain "Beamsley Perkins, and induced the custodians of the cemetery "to let him take the plate. Nothing has been heard or seen of "either the man or the plate since."—Historical Collections, Essex Institute, Salem, Mass., January and April, 1878.



10. Arms on the seal

"The seal from which my book-plate was taken was used by Dr. John Perkins in 1725, and was also used by Capt. Beamsley Perkins at the same period. I have submitted the deed and its seal to the Committee on Heraldry of the New England Historic and Genealogical Society, and they all say that it is the true seal of the descendants of John Perkins of Ipswich. So much for the seal."—Dr. Geo. A. Perkins, in private letter, Sept. 5, 1881.

"About forty years ago a man came about the county making a living by furnishing coats-of-arms to all who would pay for them. All he required was to know the name and the coat-of-arms was produced at once. I should judge the one you have sent me was obtained from the man referred to above. I have seen three of this same design, some of them I know were obtained in this way."—Dr. Geo. A. Perkins, in private letter.

"Since I wrote you last I have seen another coat-of-arms which was in the family of one of the Perkinses whose father was born in Ipswich; it is apparently quite old, but differs from the other one in all respects.

"I can find no such arms described in any book on Heraldry, and believe it to be a spurious affair. I intend to take it to Boston to some of the gentlemen who are on the Committee on Heraldry of the N. E. Historic-Genealogical Society, as I do not know anything about the science."—Dr. Geo. A. Perkins, in private letter May 27, 1884.

"I am surprised at what you say about the number of coats-of-arms which you found."

"I agree with you that the fess dancette between ten billets is the true one, and so thinks Mr. W. H. Whitmore, the best authority on this continent."—Dr. Geo. A. Perkins, in private letter.

Colonel Chester told me that an opinion prevailed in America that coats-of-arms were in those days more generally used in England than

they were, and he shared that opinion until his researches in England proved its fallacy. He used to say, in joke, that "the emigrants must have carried off the lion's share of the coats-of-arms." Everyone now does what he pleases about a coat-of-arms, but in your case you are beyond the need of such "free trade."

We cannot even form an opinion as to the probability of a coat-of-arms descending from ancestors, till we know who the ancestors were and something about them. The coat-of-arms was used by a member of your family one hundred and eighty years ago and it was not a *new* coat granted, to which all his relations had as much right as he had. In the latter case its use would be limited to him and his descendants or the descendants of his father, and would not pass to all the descendants of an ancestor who lived one hundred years before him.

John Perkins, senior, 1631, did not use a coat-of-arms, nor his immediate descendants, and probably they knew nothing about it; but later one of them, Dr. John (Harvard, 1695), fitted by education and opportunity to put traditions, and, possibly, old papers together, used in 1725 a seal with a coat-of-arms suggested to have been the same as the "ancient" coat of the Nottinghamshire family. As a student he would from education be better able to trace out his descent from tradition, or even possibly some stray papers, than his ancestors, who had their time already employed in business from childhood and who, like thousands of all classes in England, cared little and knew less about such matters, being fully engaged in more profitable ones.

Naturally Dr. John would take the arms used before the emigration. His university degree and his brother's commission in the Royal Navy would lead them in those days to use a coat-of-arms, and they quite naturally and properly used the *ancient* coat of the family to which by tradition (as I assume) they were related. Perhaps they may have known more of the relationship than we now know.

As Dr. John used that particular coat it may seem convenient that other descendants should adopt it as a sort of mark, of relationship, and until you have proof to the contrary it should be assumed that he had a right to use it. That is the position I should take in the question of using a coat-of-arms, but in a question of genealogical research it is quite different. You must assume nothing if you want to trace the descent of your family historically.

I think he must have had some reason for using a coat-of-arms, because in England it was comparatively rare, and probably he knew he was related to some English family, and as a matter of history wished to record it. They may have (from what you say) used the coat-of-arms for a considerable time.

Dr. John Perkins was justly entitled to use a coat-of-arms and (as

the law of the Heralds was a dead letter in his day) to use any coat-of-arms he pleased; especially as the one he used belonged to no one else. His father (Abraham³, [Quartermaster John², John¹, senior]) was fourteen years of age when the last named died in 1654, and lived to 1722, at which date Captain Beamsley Perkins and Dr. John would be near thirty years of age. No doubt their father would have known, just what we want to know, from what part of England his grandfather hailed, and he may have had a clue which has since been lost.

Like other people in all countries, Dr. John may have believed that all Perkinses were of one family and in good faith adopted the arms of the Perkins or Parkins family. In 1725 Dr. John, a descendant of John Perkins, the emigrant, used (as you tell me) a coat-of-arms which would properly be borne by any family before 1600. You do not speak of the arms as descending from John Perkins, 1631, but only as used by his descendant nearly a century after that date (1725), when Dr. John sealed (with the fess between ten billets) a deed to a relation, John Wainwright, possibly the very same person by whom a book was sent just before from Humphrey Wainwright of Bunny to Edmund Perkins of Boston. Subject to any evidence you may have, I should think that coat-of-arms was obtained through the Wainwrights from Bunny or from the great authority, Gwillim's *Display of Heraldry*, which gives a list of Baronets to date, 1721, as mentioned in my letter to Mr. Turner, the arms of Perkins of Bunny being "or a fess dancette between ten billets ermines," with the remark, "but of late times," etc., the eagle and canton. If those arms were used before 1721, they may have been found in an earlier catalogue of Baronets than Gwillim's, which (like most others) was no doubt founded on an earlier one corrected and continued to date.

That is evident from the words "*but of late times*," applied to a coat-of-arms which had been borne at least sixty or seventy years before 1721, and more applicable to the catalogue of 1681, mentioned by Sims, but which I do not remember to have seen. However, that is unimportant. I only suggested Gwillim because it was so well known and I had given the extract quoted above in my letter to Mr. Turner, 1873.

Whether the arms on the seal itself were, as believed by Mr. Whitmore, "billety," or (as shown in "*Perkins Arms in England*") between "10 billets, 4, 3, 2, 1," and even though your view of the Boston seal engraver appears perfectly sound I do not think he would have selected that coat-of-arms as the correct "Perkins" arms from any heraldry book unless he had been in some way directed to it.

It was not at all necessary that the Heraldry Committee should know that Dr. John's immediate ancestors were described as "yeomen" in deeds and sealed, but not with a coat-of-arms. For a formal or heraldic

opinion it would be sufficient that no proof that they did use a coat-of-arms can be produced. Without heed of Heraldry, I think the committee would have known the then technical distinction between "gentleman" and "yeoman" for it is sufficiently given under those heads in your well known *Webster's Dictionary of the English Language*."

If Mr. Whitmore is so well up in Heraldry as you mention, Dr. George A. Perkins must have misunderstood him to say that "the number of billets had nothing to do with it as both shields had the field billey."

He found that on the seal, though not so drawn in the wood-cut. His accuracy is confirmed by the fess of four points, which would not be used between ten billets, four, three, two, one, but might be between a smaller number in two rows, or with any number on a field billey wherein (as Mr. Whitmore said correctly) "the number of billets has nothing to do with it."

If you will turn over the pages of any ordinary of arms you will find that the Heralds carefully state the number and position of billets ((or other things) because they have a great deal to do with it, and any rudimentary book on Heraldry will satisfy you that neither shield had anything "billey" in its composition.

Your present mention that Mr. Whitmore examined the *seal itself* explains everything. I thought he could not have mistaken billets for super-ordinaries for the field itself — the field was "billey."

Dr. George A. Perkins had, no doubt, reason to suspect the genuineness of the seal, and very properly submitted it to the Heraldry Committee, who, seeing nothing to indicate that the seal had been tampered with, pronounced it genuine — that is, that Dr. John Perkins had used the seal. Their further opinion seems consistent with common sense, but they could not have meant their decision to be "accordinge to ye lawe of armes."

If even we go back to 1550, we cannot find at that date any family of Perkins in England (Ufton or other) that bore the arms on the seal; they were all Parkyns or Parkins. So the coat on the seal is not the coat of any family or branch of Parkyns or Perkins recorded in England. It is a differenced coat, like several others I have named to you, granted to or adopted by persons of the name who had no proof of relationship, and some of whom claimed an altogether distinct origin. We have not even colors, or crest, or any mark of cadency to help us to even a guess. We learn nothing from it but what we already knew, viz.: that the name of the person who used it was probably Perkins.

You think the seal "clearly" indicates Ufton descent. But why Ufton more than any other of the six (or eight) families that bore those arms?

I cannot say for what family they were intended, but if I were to guess the last I should guess it would be Ufton, because I know the Ufton arms better than the others, and those on the seal are not like them — being a fess of four points instead of three. There are many ways in which the sunken space for arms on Captain Beamsley Perkins' tombstone might be accounted for, consistently with his brother having obtained the coat-of-arms some little time after his death, but I could form no opinion without some data on which to found it.

In the missing letter I asked your grounds for believing that the arms on the seal, which you describe only as the *arms of the Berkshire branch*, descended to Dr. John from his ancestors, an important question, because if they did I should doubt his descent from Newent, Madresfield, etc., and I gave my reasons for such doubt. So whether the arms you refer to were with six billets or with ten billets, we have again a suggestion of belief in descent from the Nottinghamshire family.

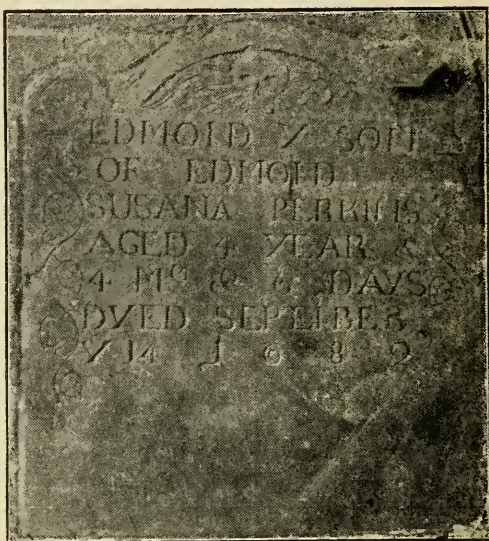
If you have any evidence that a fess between ten billets descended to Dr. John from his ancestors, you will at once perceive the improbability of his descent from the Madresfield branch. We have no knowledge of even what family arms were intended by the seal.

I see that several deeds by Dr. John are in existence and mentioned by Dr. George A. Perkins in his genealogy — were they not sealed with the same seal? And I think the latter would have missed a bit of history if he had omitted to mention the seal. From your examination of the (Harlean Society's) "Visitations," you know that no Herald could allow that Dr. John Perkins was "justly entitled according to the law of arms" to use that coat without proof that his immediate ancestors had continuously used it or that he had obtained a "confirmation" or a "grant" of those arms.

From the pamphlet you have sent me Edmund Perkins (senior) in 1688 appears in a business matter with his "relation," John Wainwright of Ipswich. Perhaps he may have learned through the Wainwrights either of Thornton's *History of Nottinghamshire* or directly through their relations at Bunny what were the arms on the tomb of Richard Parkyns of Nottinghamshire. As we know all these things did occur, we must find the particular reason which led to them, and it at once occurs as probable that some years before 1727 Dr. John Perkins intending to use a coat-of-arms, would naturally make inquiries in England, knowing that his connections, the Wainwrights, had a relation at Bunny, in fact in the house (so to speak) of the Nottinghamshire family, it seems highly probable that he would inquire there. In the course of inquiry the coat-of-arms on the infant's gravestone (Figure 11) would be mentioned, and that the infant's brother was living and fond of wrestling, like Sir Thomas Parkyns, who, in after years, when a new edition of the book was published, might have sent a copy to

his American cousin, who was fond of the art and purposely have spelled the name "Parkyns."

We have no *evidence* respecting these coats-of-arms and speculating on them can lead to no profitable result. What could seem more probable than the "castle in the air" I build on traditions, etc.: the discovery that the wood-cut of the arms on the seal demolished the whole of it? Its ruins should remain as a memorial of the uselessness (for genealogical purposes) of building on any foundation but ascertained facts. I dwell at some length on this question of coats-of-arms because it seems rather an obstacle in the path leading to the English home of your ancestor.



11. Arms on the gravestone

THE ARMS ON THE TOMBSTONE

Still another relic of the past, bearing upon the Perkins arms in New England, was unearthed a few years ago, near where the Providence depot now stands in Boston. A gravestone of which we give a representation (Figure 11) was found on land of Samuel Jennison, Esq., and was given by him to his friend, Aug. T. Perkins, Esq., of Boston. This stone is broken upon the right-hand corners, but upon the upper left, as will be seen, is a shield bearing the arms of the Perkins, a fess dancette between six billets, differing from the arms upon the seal only in the number of billets, and from the bottom of the shield is a depending branch with pine cones or pine apples, as they were called, the pine cone or apple being the proper crest of the Perkins arms. This stone is of the date of 1682, bearing the name of an infant son of Edmund Perkins, the emigrant ancestor of the family at Boston.

Perhaps your sending a larger heliotype means that you want my further opinion of the coat-of-arms. When Miss Sharp first showed me a small heliotype of the gravestone I at first glance formed and expressed an opinion which led me to ask you afterwards whether you knew anything of its history. I could not dispute your local knowledge of what was likely to occur at that date in America. If the gravestone had been found in *England* I could have filled a page with reasons (sculptural and heraldic) for believing that Mr. A. T. Perkins had been imposed upon, either as a practical joke or to get money from him.

You, Mr. A. T. Perkins, Dr. George A. Perkins and Mr. Whitmore, whom you have mentioned as a great authority, believed that the coat-of-arms, etc., was of about the date of the epitaph (1682) and founded theories on that belief.

What I have said has been on the assumption that they knew its "history" and had sufficient grounds for that belief. But for their opinion (to which I defer, knowing nothing of its history) I should not have thought the coat-of-arms of that date. The points by which one would generally be guided (from a purely sculptural and heraldic point of view) suggest that it is not. If of that date I think the coat-of-arms and pine cones could only come from Thoroton's History of Nottinghamshire, for the reasons given.

Anyhow, as I have before said, I would not pay much attention to these coats-of-arms, and as an example of their misleading character I may instance myself.

Mr. A. T. Perkins thinks that the shield and pine cone ornaments on the child's gravestone referred to the *Ufton* family, judging by the mistake in the pedigree which accompanied my letter to Mr. Turner. I have no doubt they were intended for the arms of the Nottinghamshire family and taken from an engraving of the monument to Richard Parkyns (the first settler in Nottinghamshire) given on page 47 of Thoroton's "*Nottinghamshire*" (1677). I think so, first because there was no other imaginable source from which those arms could have been obtained, *with the pine cone ornaments*, unless from a "search" at the College of Arms, London, rewarded by the discovery of the Herald-painter's blunder or six billets, which "search" was not only improbable, but would prove that Edmund Perkins knew nothing about the Ufton or any other English family that used a coat-of-arms.

My second reason for believing that the arms, etc., on the gravestone was meant for that of Richard Parkyns of Nottinghamshire, is that not only Edmund's son, but I think John Perkins of Ipswich (by whom Edmund is said to have been brought up) believed in the Nottinghamshire relationship.

The coat-of-arms and pine cones seem to have been added some time after the gravestone was made in 1682 — suggesting that at that date Edmund Perkins did not know what coat of arms he was entitled to, though he may have known what English family he was related to. That view appears in the suggestion that Edmund Perkins respected the traditions of his family (meaning Ufton) when he added a coat-of-arms to his infant's gravestone.

In your letter just received you mention the opinion that Edmund Perkins was son of Isaac of Ipswich, younger brother of John, senior, and that the descendants of John took the ten billets while those of the younger brother took six. That would be a very unusual and improper proceeding in those days, for it would suggest that they were of two distinct families, or at least distant branches.

If the *ten billets* were the arms of their father (he being eldest son of the head of the family in England) his second son's coat would be marked by the crescent, the third son by the mullet, etc., the usual marks of cadency. But then come the pine cone ornaments. From what source would John Perkins' father have obtained them, Richard Parkyns of Bunny being the original grantee?

THE ARMS ON THE COACH

"My Dear Mr. Perkins:

"I know how my grandfather, who knew little and cared less for such things, came to use the eagle displayed, etc. He traveled in Europe in his own carriage, as was the custom then in 1790, for a year. He bought his traveling carriage in London. When it came home it had on it the arms painted, the eagle displayed, etc." (Figure 12).

"The old Colonel thought it nicer than the one he had seen as a boy, and perhaps thought it probably more correct, and so accepted it.

"That is about as much as they knew a hundred years ago here about coats-of-arms.

"Yours very truly,
(Signed) "A. T. PERKINS."



12. Arms on the Coach

Colonel T. Handasyde Perkins remembered, *when old*, that the arms (with the eagle) then borne by his family, were not the same as those he remembered when a boy, which were like the canton only. It appears that his family arms had been changed during his lifetime, without his knowing when or why and without anything remaining to show what the earlier coat-of-arms was.

A genealogist who relied on coats-of-arms and books with heraldic mistakes would have fixed Colonel Perkins in his boyhood to some one English family, perhaps the Ufton family, from *Dictionaries of Arms*, etc., which have copied the six billets mistake in the Visitation Pedigrees, while in later times he would certainly have fixed him to the Nottinghamshire family, who alone bore a fess between billets in a canton with the eagle.

Are we to suppose that a Mr. Perkins of Boston changed the arms of his family only to make believe that he belonged to the more distinguished family? All the evidence that I have, some letters I have seen, and especially a book by a descendant of his, prove just the contrary. He wished to use the arms to which he believed his family justly entitled. He thought that the fess between six billets (Figure 1) was meant for the Nottinghamshire arms, and seeing that coat borne in a canton, with the eagle (Figure 5) in reliable books corrected what he thought a mistake, by adding the eagle.

Exactly the same occurred to me in 1872, in respect of a rough sketch of the eagle coat-of-arms from the seal of Edmund Perkins. If

at all like the sketch it was *not* probably carved in England, Heraldic seals, etc., being the very things that no one would use, unless he were in a position to have them well executed, from a good model, by a proper seal engraver.

I carried the sketch to my friends at the College of Arms and we sat on it solemnly, "Garter," "Clarencieux," "Norroy," "Windsor," "Portcullis," "Rouge Croix," "Bluemantle," and the rest, stared at it in turn, and, like Mark Twain's *blue jays*, each in turn gave a more chuckle-headed opinion than the last. No one could see more than that the man who used it had an opinion that he belonged to some family which had once used such coat-of-arms.

Now it appears from your letter that it was time and trouble wasted and that the whole foundation for the adoption into the family of the eagle coat-of-arms was the London coach-maker's view of the case, notwithstanding Colonel Thomas H. Perkins' remembered having seen the older coat (Figure 1) when he was a boy, and then it bore no eagle, and as he really cared nothing about such matters (A. T. Perkins' book, page 3) he evidently preferred and allowed the coach-maker's view to prevail against his own recollection of the arms, family tradition and the coat-of-arms on the infant's tombstone (Figure 11).

The only things one learns are that the worthy Colonel had an excellent temper, or he would have summarily chastised the coach-maker; and that Mr. Turner wasted a heap of time and money and I a considerable amount of trouble because the only clue he obtained in 1873 was that the ancestor had an eagle for his coat-of-arms and was an engineer in fortification and shipping.

The coat-of-arms put upon the traveling carriage of Colonel Perkins by the London carriagemaker and its subsequent adoption by his descendants as their proper coat-of-arms should warn you against "traditions" and coats-of-arms.

This "traveling carriage" incident is curious, but as you justly remark, it "illustrates" pretty well what I have said so much about, and it is worse than waste of time; it is only misleading for genealogical purposes to pay attention to coats-of-arms or traditions. The story of the coach-maker must have escaped Mr. A. T. Perkins' memory in 1872; and owing to the pressure of business at the time, subsequent failure of memory and loss of papers he confused Mr. Turner with someone of later date.

CHAPTER V. THE UFTON BRANCH

Ashmole's MSS.
852, fol. 301.

Superstes } Petrus Morley alias Perkins de com. = Agnes Tayler
4^o, Rich. II. } Salopiae serviens domini Hugonis de } uxor ejus.
} Spencer domini de Shipton in Com.
} Oxon.

Henricus Perkins filius Peter. =

Seneschallus Tho. } Johnes Perkins armig'r filius Henrici =
Comitis Gloucester 21 } vixit I. Hen. IV.
Ric. II.

Superstes 7 Hen. V. } Willus Perkins ar. filius Johannis. =
et 5 Hen. VI. }

38 Hen. VI. } Tho. Perkins ar. fil. Willielmi ob. ante =
1460. } 18 Ed. IV.

Johes Perkins filius Thome. =

Thomas Perkins fil. Johis. = Uxor ejus filia et hæres..More.

Ricus Perkins primus filius } Willus Perkins = Uxor ejus filia
obiit sine exitu ejus filia } Wells de Com.
Mompesson. } Southt.

Franciscus Perkins de Ufton in Com. Berks. = Anna filia Plowden.
Arminge.

Edwardus } Franciscus Perkins = Margareta filia Jo. Eston de
Perkins } filius et hæres modo } Catmore in Com. Berks arm'r.
2 filius. } superstes 1623.

Franciscus unicus filius } Maria 1. } Anna 3. } Elizabetha 5.
et vivens anno 1623. } Jana 2. } Francisca 4. } Margareta 6.

FRAUNCIS PARKYNS.

I, George Underwood, of Ufton, did set downe this name Francis Perkins,
and I testifye this latter pedigree to be true.

One family of Perkins produced more than two hundred years ago
a then "old pedigree" tracing back to the ancient Kings of Britain before
England was a name.

Another from an Osbert Parkins who lived soon after the Norman

conquest. Then comes our friend Peter (or Parkin) Morley, some three hundred years later, and so on.

I once found in an old Subsidy Roll of Worcestershire for the Sixth of Edward III. (1318) a Julia or Juliana Perkins (probably a widow) living and paying tax in *Madresfield*, when Peter was a boy and nearly a hundred years before William Perkins settled in Berkshire. After that we have the same name in Madresfield long before John Perkins appears in the Court Roll and frequently mixed up with the name of *Mor* or *More*, which was a Shropshire name (even *Peter More*), while Morley was not.

By good luck I have had occasion during the last six months to rub up my memory, and what stray notes I have in obedience to a lady who is collecting material for a history of the parish of Ufton, Berkshire,* which will include that of the family of Perkins (of Ufton) with its branches, younger sons, etc. Such a book necessarily takes some time, but as everything stated will be derived from Authentic Records, I think it will be worth waiting for.

As I have given up genealogy and London for several years, you will agree that I should not easily remember the contents of one of those letters written, as you say, "a number of years ago," to a Mr. W. H. Turner of Oxford, whom I never saw, about some of the early Perkins families and the arms they bore.

Mr. Turner wrote me more than sixteen years ago that he had received letters from America asking him to collect all the information he could about the family of Perkins or Parkyns, and he was trying to find what counties he should search, from the Oxford Matriculation Registers (names and counties of the students) and he added, "my only clue is my correspondent's ancestor had an eagle for his coat-of-arms and was an engineer in fortification and shipping. That was all and lacking both the Christian name and date of emigration, he asked me for anything that I thought would be useful to him. You will see from this he was in a difficult position, groping his way in the dark, and that I could do no more than try to give him a start in the shape of a few scraps of raw material for him to work into shape if he found it useful.

I think, however, from your remarks, that you refer particularly to the family of Perkins of Ufton, given in the *Visitation of Berkshire*, 1623. It was written (as usually in Latin) *Perkins*, and MS. copies are in the British Museum and Heralds' College, London, in the Ashmoleum Library, Oxford, and elsewhere. It was also privately printed several years ago by Sir Thomas Phillips.

Mr. Turner had never heard of the Ufton family till I introduced him to it and sent him a reference to the Ufton pedigree, and he sent a copy (of that in the Oxford Library) to his American correspondent.

*The History of Ufton Court, Berkshire, and the Perkins Family, by A. Mary Sharp, published by Eliot Stock, London, 1892.

I think the Ufton family was as little known in America as it was in England, till I unearthed it. Mr. Turner received a letter expressing great satisfaction with the Ufton pedigree, etc., and he not long after gave me a copy of Mr. A. T. Perkins' "*Life and Paintings of Copley*," just then published. He supposed that he would have to continue the search, and in anticipation I had directed a "*general search*" at the College of Arms, by W. G. Cullen, "Portcullis."

My letter to Mr. Turner bringing the Ufton family prominently to the front among other families or branches slightly mentioned naturally led to the supposition that it was *the family* of the name in England, and hearing of the pedigree, etc., and knowing no other family of the name, you would naturally seek to connect with it. Anyone would have done the same.

That is how you have only the *Ufton* pedigree, over which so much time and speculation appear to have been given in America. What puzzles me is, you do not seem to have any of Mr. Turner's work, for he probably sent to America some explanation of his own along with my raw material, though you appear not to have seen it, and I have no doubt I saw every letter he received that related to his search, as he relied on my assistance and information in the matter.

Mr. Turner frequently wrote me on various other matters, and in the autumn of 1879 he was engaged to edit the Berkshire Visitation for the Harleian Society. I asked him for and he sent me a copy of his Oxford Matriculations, and as I expected students of the name came from every corner of England and some from Wales. A copy of the Matriculations I now enclose.

Mr. Turner fully deserved the very high reputation he had acquired as a conscientious and thoroughly reliable genealogist. He died sometime between 1879 and the autumn of 1880 (several years after he had ceased corresponding with Mr. Perkins), as you will find at the end of the Harleian Society's volumes for those years. I have all the Harleian Society's publications except the Parish Registers, to which I have not subscribed.

There is no good history of Berkshire. Lysons in "*Magna Britannia*" gives a sketch history of the county and a few remarks (more or less incorrect) about the Perkins family, and Ashmole's "*Antiquities of Berkshire*" gives three or four epitaphs — nothing more.

Generally the sketch history of the family, as a rough guide to you, may be taken thus: The Pedigree (Berkshire Visitation, 1623) derives the name from Peter or Perkin Morley, who is stated to have been "*serviens*" (according to Selden a higher grade of esquire) to Sir Hugh DeSpencer (who died in 1349), and who was living in the year of the poll tax (1381). I have not looked him up nor his son, Henry Perkins, whose son John Parkyns acknowledged, in the time of Richard II. (1390) to hold an estate of the manor of Madresfield by fealty and 8s. 5d. per annum.

"Serviens" is sergeant, as in the present day, "Serviens ad Arma," sergeant at arms; "Serviens ad Legem," sergeant at law. It is frequently translated "steward," but, I think, incorrectly, for Hugh DeSpencer's time. "Sergeant" was then a military rank next below "Knight," two sergeants being equivalent to one Knight for "Knight service."

We have no trace or record of the alleged ancestors or supposed origin of the name except in the pedigree, and all that we know is what it tells us, that he was Petrus-Morley, alias Perkins de com. Salopiae serviens Hugonis DeSpencer de Shipton com. Oxon, 4 Ric. II." I do not know that Petrus Morley ever existed under that name, but if he did the pedigree does not say that his name was "Petrus" (alias "*Perkins*") Morley, from which his descendants would take the surname of Morley or Perkins. It says (whatever it may mean) that he was Peter — (Morley alias Perkins) — that is, Peter Morley or Peter Perkins, descendant of some former Perkin Morley. According to the pedigree, "Petrus Morley" and his grandson, John Perkins, had service under the DeSpencers, both suggesting the neighborhood of *Madresfield* as the probable location of the latter's early descendants. Madresfield adjoins Hanley Castle, the principal seat of the DeSpencers.

I judge from experience of Heralds' work in those days that the "s" in *Perkins* was a blunder of the Herald or his copying clerk and that "*alias Perkins*" meant that "Petrus" is to be translated "Perkin." The pedigree maker or the Herald's clerk who copied it in the Visitation Book, for the original does not exist, wished to show the origin of the name, or he put "Perkins" for "Perkin" by a slip of the pen, a very pardonable mistake in a twice copied document in those days. "Petrus" would stand in Latin for either "Peter" or "Perkin." If he had put "Petrus Morley" only and "Hen. filius Petri" it would have been translated "Peter Morley and Henry, Peter's son," whence our common surname Peters or Peterson. He put (as in many pedigrees of other names) "*alias Perkin*," to show that "Petrus" meant "Perkins," so we have "Perkin" Morley from Shropshire and thus obtain Henry, Perkin's son ("Henricus filius Petri"), whence Perkins or Parkyns as a surname or (in some parts of England) the very common Parkinson — rarely Perkinson. If "*alias Perkins*" had been meant to suggest that his surname was "Morley or Perkins" his son would not have been described as "fil. Petri" to show the origin of the surname; he would have taken his father's surname as "*Henricus Perkins*."

Anyhow, the father was either "Perkin Morley" or "Peter Perkins" (or Morley), whichever you please, and a Shropshire man; and to deny that and to assert that he was a Frenchman would be much the same as to assert that your city, Utica, derives its name from Utah, of which it is the capital.

I left it to Mr. Turner to give his own view and interpretation. It is not surprising, therefore, that by wills and other sources we find the

name Parkins or Perkins in close proximity to the principal manors of the DeSpencers; possibly descendants of the "steward" of those manors, or, more likely, the "sergeant" in their retinue.

I do not think there is any reason to suppose that "Peter Morley" was at all connected with the family of Mauley of Mulgrave. You will find in Dugdale's *Baronage* that Robert, second Lord Morley (of quite another family) was in an expedition to France in the retinue with Hugh DeSpencer, and that his grandson, Thomas, Lord Morley, married the sister of Thomas DeSpencer, Earl of Gloucester.

I cannot see how we can get at "Pierre de Morlaix" and his descendants, "Pierre's kin," when the pedigree tells us that (if he existed) his name was (in Latin) "Petrus — Morley alias Perkins." At times I have fancied that might be correct and that as written it might mean that he had two surnames, "Morley or Perkins"; but that is not probable. He was more likely to have had *no* surname than *two*, in those days. Putting aside this broad question, we must accept the statement in the pedigree as to name and nationality (if we accept it at all) until we find *some* other evidence. We need not travel as far as "Peter's kins" or "Pierre's kins" for a surname derived from some mentioned ancestor who was named Perkin or Parkyn when the pedigree tells us that the son of a Shropshire man, Petrus Morley, was Henry Perkins.

In the 21st Richard II. (1398) John Parkyns was seneschal to Thomas DeSpencer, Earl of Gloucester, and in the first year of Henry IV. (1400) he had a grant of land at Shipton-under-Whichwood (in Oxfordshire), one of the forfeited manors of the DeSpencers, who had enormous estates in various counties.

In the pamphlet, "*Perkins Arms in England*," someone has introduced "was" in your quotation. "John Parkyns was acknowledged, temp. Richard II. to hold an estate of the manor of Madresfield by fealty and 8s. 5d. per annum" and so destroyed the meaning. The words of the old Court Roll of Madresfield Manor are (bar abbreviations): "Johannes Parkyns cognovit tenere de domina 2 messuagia et 18 dietas terrae reddends per annum 8s. 5d. et sectam curie et fecit fidelitatem."*

John Parkyns acknowledges to hold "cognovit tenere," etc.) represents an old feudal custom. On a new lord succeeding to the lordship the freeholders and others who held lands of his manors attended his first court and acknowledged that they held their property by certain "services" — "a peppercorn," "a pound of cummin," "a pair of spurs," etc., but commonly by a small money payment and "fealty" or "socage" or "court suit," etc.

I no doubt sent Mr. Turner the note in the words (Latin or English) in which I received it from a late friend of mine who had just found

*Free Translation — John Parkyns acknowledged to hold of her Ladyship's manor two messuages (dwelling houses and the adjoining land appropriated to the use of the household, including the adjacent buildings); to furnish 18 days' provisions; to pay 8 shillings 5 pence for rent; to become her adherent; to give the property necessary care; and he did homage.

the old "Court Roll" (from which it was taken) in private hands. I afterwards obtained the complete "Roll"; it gives the names of other persons who "*acknowledged*" and the date (Tuesday next after Lady Day, 1390) and it seems that John Parkyns had just acquired his property (by purchase or otherwise) for he "*did fealty*" (or homage) ("*fecit fidelitatem*") not unlike our custom of being "presented" to the Queen on appointment to office under the Crown.

If (as I believe) Mr. Turner was a professional genealogist, all this would be perfectly clear to him, and if his correspondent was collecting material for a family history it would suggest some pages of interesting matter on the old feudal tenure and its many curious customs. If not, he could have put it in commonplace English that John Parkyns had some property at that date in Madresfield, as very likely in other places. I have no doubt I sent it to him as a connecting link between two families of Parkyns.

I take the coat-of-arms (Figure 3) to refer to the marriage of Williams Perkyns (fourth in the Visitation of Berkshire, 1623), who is named in the Diocesan Register at Salisbury as "Lord of Ufton," "Donzell,"* "True Patron,"† and "Patron." He was also "baillous"‡ of Humphrey Plantagenet, Duke of Gloucester, and it was probably in that capacity that he was party to an agreement by which in June, 1411, William Leyre confirmed the lordship of Childs Manor, East Barham, Norfolk, to the Duke, Alianore his wife, and William Parkyns, Esquire, who in another deed released his right to the aforesaid Duke of Gloucester. The latter deed was sealed with his arms, "or a fess dancette between eight billets ermines." This is the earliest instance in which the Parkyns or Perkins coat-of-arms appears. The number of billets was afterwards increased to ten, as evidenced by the monument at Ufton.

In 1424 there was a fine between John Collee and Elizabeth, and William Perkyns (son of John the seneschal) and Margaret his wife, by which the manor and advowson of Ufton Robert (near Reading) and a moiety of land in *Buscot* and other places and Ufton were settled on William and Margaret and their heirs.

When I wrote Mr. Turner I had probably not examined the fine, but only mentioned its existence, from the calendar, a copy of which he had at Oxford.

John Collee (in very old deeds DeColnaye was the family name, later Collee) was of Padworth, Berkshire, and I had not then worked up the Collee family. I had not, till five years after, (viz., October, 1877) discovered some interesting records proving that William Parkyns was "patron" of Ufton several years before the date of the fine which is a

*Young attendant.

†He had the gift or disposition of the benefice, or living, of the church at Ufton.

‡Balliff (or agent), an officer appointed by lords and invested with important functions, such as authority to execute process, make arrests in their respective jurisdictions, etc.

settlement in the interest of the two wives who were probably sisters.

In 1426, '27 and '28 he is mentioned in the accounts of the Corporation of Reading. One record is here translated:

"For payment at games given before the Mayor at William Parkyns, 6s. 8d. For ale given at the same, 2d. To the minstrels of the Duke of Gloucester at the Mayor's breakfast at Parkyns, 20d."

In 1427 and several successive years he served as escheator for Berkshire and Oxfordshire. Ashmole's *"Antiquities of Berkshire"* mentions that John Collee and William Parkyns were returned in a list of the gentry of the county in 1434. In 1435 an agreement uniting the two parishes, Ufton Robert and Ufton Nervet, was signed by William Parkyns and the Prior of the Knights of St. John of Jerusalem, and henceforth the patronage of the united living was held by the former and his successors.

In 1444 he signed as witness to a deed or grant from Henry VI. to the Provost and College of Eton, of lands in New and Old Windsor and in Clewer. In 1447 he is mentioned in the Court Roll of the manor of Bray as holding the office of "baillous" (bailiff) to the Duke of Gloucester.

As William Parkyns presented to the living of Ufton until 1451, when his son Thomas appeared as "true patron" of the church, his death doubtless occurred about 1449 or '50.

That is how the family acquired the Ufton* estate, which remained some centuries in that branch.

In the "Close Roll," I. Edward IV. (1461) there is a deed by which Thomas Parkyns in conjunction with the "King Maker," Earl of Warwick and his brother John (Neville), Lord Montague, received from Bernard Brocas, a Lancastrian, of Horton, county Buckingham, certain manors in Hampshire, Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire, in which he probably acted merely as co-trustee. In those days the prominent adherents of the conquered party saved some of their numerous and large estates from confiscation by transferring them temporarily to some friendly opponent.

I take it that from the connection of Thomas Perkins, Esq., with Richard, Earl of Warwick, and John, Lord Montague (the Earl's brother) arose the Warwickshire branch before mentioned, William,

*Ufton and Buscot belonged to the family of Pagnall and from them passed to one Thomas Calery. Buscot in Berkshire is not far from Shipton and close to Fairford, another great place of the DeSpencers. I think the Pakenhams had the manor and advowson of Buscot and the other moiety of the lands.

son of Thomas Perkins, married Joane Reade of * * * near Coventry, *i. e.*, near Marston, where was the branch mentioned.*

From the charters of Selborne Priory preserved in the muniment room of Magdalen College, Oxford, it appears that:

"Thomas Perkyns, armiger (esquire) was tenant (firm-
"arius) of land belonging to the rectory of East Walban
"(Estworlam) Hampshire, for a period until the Feast of
"St. Michael in the second year of Edward IV. (1462) and
"that Thomas Perkyns, armiger, is indebted for the land in
"his possession until the Feast of St. Michael, seven years
"and over, at a feudal rent (feodum) of 20 shillings, £7.
"6s. 8d."

From Thomas Parkyns both the Berkshire and Nottinghamshire families descended, the former from John, the eldest son, who inherited the Ufton estates, and the latter from another son, Thomas, to whom the property at Madresfield passed.

In a p. m. inquisition taken after his death in 1478, it was declared that Thomas Parkyns, armiger, held no lands nor tenements of the King "in capite" * * * but held of the Abbot of Redynge, as of his manor of Foxell's Court in Sulhamsted Abbots, one messuage and divers lands and tenements with their appurtenances "in socage."

You will observe that the Harleian MS., 1566, describes Thomas Parkyns (son of the above Thomas Parkyns) as of "Mattisfelde, co. Worcester," but does not so describe his son Richard, who was probably the Richard Parkyns who, in 1524, held a Crown lease of a small manor (Pole) in Ufton, which had belonged to the family of Lovel but was forfeited to the Crown.

Pole Manor was held in 1467 by Joan, wife of the late Sir John Lovell, Knight, of Thomas Parkyns in socage; later, in 1511, it was granted by Henry VIII. to Richard Weston, and after his death legal proceedings were taken against his widow, Dame Anne Weston, to contest her right and to maintain the claim of Richard Parkyns, which eventually seems to have been made good. The lease had expired long before 1559, when the crest was granted to Richard Parkyns his son (afterwards of Bunny) just after the death of his namesake and cousin, Richard Parkyns of Ufton, on whose tomb it made its first appearance in public.

I have just sent *two* short pedigrees of Edwards of about same date

*Cobbett's "Parliamentary History of England" states that in the 38th year of Henry VI. (in Sept., 1459), in "the expedition of the Earl of Salisbury (father of "the 'King-Maker') with Tho. and John Neville, Knights, sons to the said Earl, "Tho. Parkin, Wm. Stanley, esqrs., sons (sic) to Tho. Lord Stanley, and Thos. "Oringe of Tongue in the county of York, with 500 men and banners displayed, at "Bloureheath (in Staffordshire), James, Lord Audley, was slain in battle by the "said Earl, and John, Lord Dudley, with several others taken prisoners by the "successful Yorkists."

Styling Tho. Parkin "son" of Thomas, Lord Stanley is evidently an error as he was neither son nor son-in-law of Lord Stanley. His wife's name, however, has not been ascertained.

to Miss Sharp. Part of one of them you will see in the Oxford Matriculation, two sons of Edward Perkins of Wokingham, Berkshire, viz.: *Edward*, 1629 (aged seventeen), and Benjamin, 1639 (aged sixteen). As there was twelve years' difference in their ages, there was plenty of room for a dozen more sons between, though none are mentioned in their wills; they were Protestants.

And a *third* short pedigree of Edmunds, which interests her because Edmund, second son of Francis Perkins, was living in Hampshire in 1660, and though it is almost certain that he had no son at that date.

CHAPTER VI.

THE WORCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

Ashmole's MSS., 852, fol. 311.

Harleian MS., 1566.

Vis. Monmouthshire, 1683.

Living 1381. } Peter Morley alias Perkins of Shropshire, sergeant to Lord Hugh De Spencer of the manor of Shipton in Oxfordshire. = Agnes Taylor his wife.

2 Henry Perkins, son of Peter =

Seneschal to Thomas } 3 John Perkins, esquire, son of =
Duke of Glo'ter, 1398 } Henry; living 1399.

Living 1420 and 1427. 4 William Perkins, esquire, son of John = Margaret.

1460. 5 Thomas Perkins, esquire, son of William =
d. before 1479.

6 John = Thomas = Ellen Tompkins *William Humphrey

7 Thomas = . . More. William = Joan Reade. James. Richard. Lawrence.

8 Richard = . . Mompesson. William = . . Wells. Richard = Ann Twynborrowe

Francis = Anne Plowden.

Richard of Bunny, Notts.

*See Tentative Pedigree.

Though the pedigree of "*Perkin*" of Worcestershire and that of "*Parkins*" of Mattisfield are published with the Visitation of Worcestershire, 1569, they were not then entered—as you will see in the preface, viii.; they are from Richard Mundy's copy of the Visitation with many other pedigrees added; I forget when Richard Mundy lived, but think about 1630.*

The Harleian Society's pedigree is one of the "additions" to the British Museum copy of the Visitation. In the College of Arms is the same pedigree in a book containing "Pedigrees of Many Ancient Families."

"*Parkins*" was entered at the College of Arms, probably ten years

*MS. No. 1566, of the Harleian Collection contains about two hundred pedigrees, taken principally from the Visitations of 1569 and 1634, and a collection of Worcestershire Arms "hastily tricked in printed escutcheons" by Mundy, a herald-painter of the period. Mundy was assisted in this work by Messrs. Dale and Latton.—*Heraldry of Worcestershire*, Grazebrook, page 1.

before, and "*Perkin*" probably much later than 1569. Both Worcestershire pedigrees, I think, were copied from an original pedigree now lost, but which appears to have had neither date nor signature and to have been used in the grant of the crest in 1559, to Richard Parkyns, afterwards of Nottinghamshire.

In my MS. copy of the Parkins of Madresfield pedigree from the College of Arms the name Turfoote is spelled Turfoole, which, I think, is probably correct. The pedigree begins with Thomas Parkins, who married E. Tompkins of Nupend, county Hereford; that is in the parish of Cradley. His eldest son William married into *Warwickshire*, and his (William's) son Richard from the parish of West Hide, county Hereford. The copy of the Visitation in the British Museum does not give as the Heralds College copy does that James Parkins, second son of Thomas of Madresfield, married * * * in Shropshire.

I should think there is some mistake in the "*Parkins*" pedigree, which was probably entered before 1559, by the father of the grantee or some other member of the family, because in deeds which can be trusted, viz.: settlements of property, etc., Christopher (afterwards Sir Christopher Parkins of the *inventive* pedigree) comes next after Richard Parkyns' own children and next after him Francis Parkyns of Ufton, Berkshire, as if they were his nearest relations. I think the mistake must have arisen in this way: Richard Parkyns explained that he was of Berkshire, and the crest was wanted for the tomb of one of the Berkshire family, and a note was made of it to that effect, and the clerk or herald-painter who had to engross and illumine the grant and to enter in it in the usual form the descent of the grantee "*combined his information*"; that is, he took "*Mattisfield*" from the pedigree and "*Berkshire*" from the information of the grantee; and so the grant was to Richard Parkins of Mattisfield *in* Berkshire, son and heir of Richard, son and heir of William, son and heir of Thomas Parkins of Mattisfield aforesaid, gentleman.

The pedigree of "*Perkin*" is also an "*addition*" and is silent as to locality, but the marriages seem to point to the neighborhood of Madresfield. That is the only trace of any family of the name which remained in that part of England using or claiming to use a coat-of-arms before 1634.

From the number of in the last line of the "*Perkin*" pedigree it would seem to have been entered by some one who did not know much about Francis Perkin, whose name, like others, is misspelled.

Everything proves there was a large settlement of Perkinsons in the district round Madresfield from much earlier times than the pedigree suggests. They of Madresfield married chiefly into Herefordshire where they had also property. From them various branches appear to have sprung in that and adjacent counties. The families descended from Madresfield are Nottinghamshire, Warwickshire and Ireland.

The history of the notes of Worcester and Hereford wills I send is that during a short vacation stay in the Malvern Hills in 1872, I paid visits to those cities and stole an hour from cathedrals, etc., for a peep into the wills, chiefly as a help to my argument about the Madresfield pedigree, with Mr. Woof, and the list is just as it was hastily scribbled on that visit.

At Worcester some wills were found and I took a hasty look at what ones could be found at once, only to see what they were like and if any names known to me were mentioned, leaving it to Mr. Woof to search more carefully if he desired. They were mostly or all *short* wills of persons in moderate circumstances. I did not know the neighborhood nor the names of the places, so I could not select, and that has been an advantage, for it shows that nearly all the wills found were in groups and just where, from the pedigrees and other information we should expect to find them — one in the direction of *Shropshire*, another towards *Warwickshire*, and another in Herefordshire, near Madresfield and southward towards Newent.

In my letter which went astray I sent you a very rough sketch and map with several places marked, hoping to send you some more, and a separate note on the subject of the Worcestershire pedigree you referred to (James, Humphrey, Humphrey, etc.). The sketch map I now send includes places mentioned in the notes of Perkins' wills by Mr. Whitmore and those now sent. The positions are not correct as they are taken from various small county maps on different scales. For instance, Salford should be further from Tewkesbury, more to the north; it will help you to find them and correct distances on the large ordnance survey maps which, no doubt, are in your Public Library. Slimbridge appears in the list of Oxford Matriculations.

I have only separate county maps of different scales and the sketch map I send is only intended to show you the situation of what I call the "groups" which seem to radiate from Madresfield as a center.

Besides the three branches named there were two distinct Lincolnshire families, one London, one Suffolk, I think one Essex, and one or two Surrey families. Then there were numerous branches from younger sons of all these several families, and London was full of younger branches of country families. So by 1630 there would be hundreds of Perkinses descended from the *ancestors* of William Perkins of Ufton and Thomas Perkins of Madresfield (but not from them) who have disappeared leaving no trace of their existence. My object has therefore been to try to fix you from the two traditions to a line (Mattisfield, of which there is some trace remaining and which probably could be further traced).

You might find years hence names that you now have in wills of Perkinses in other parts of England, for many younger sons settled far away from their native homes.

Several of the Madresfield or Newent neighborhood were no doubt

settled in London. The London wills also show the well-known fact that men from all parts of the country settled there, not excepting the Newent district; and the same in other large towns, such as Bristol. Nothing was more common.

So we seem to have representatives of each of the sons of Thomas Parkins of Mattisfield:

1. Richard, son of Richard, son of William, the eldest son of Thomas of Mattisfield.
2. Francis Perkin of Worcestershire, son of Humphrey, who was the son of Walter Perkin, who was, I have little doubt, a descendant of James, second son of Thomas Parkins of Mattisfield. I should imagine this Walter Perkin a descendant of James and Humphrey, and that the pedigree was entered about 1600 or later. I can only remember two Humphrey Perkins in old deeds who were not distinctly connected with the Madresfield neighborhood and for anything I know both may have been so. Of one I know nothing; he appears to have been a soldier. I have only seen in the British Museum a receipt for soldier's pay, temp. Henry VIII. (1509-1547) by Humphrey Parkins. The other appears in the will, 1549, of a John Parkyns, citizen and turner of London.
James Parkins' son and grandson were both named Humphrey, who were not, I think, the same as Humphrey Parkins of Clebury Mortimer, who died in 1551, leaving sons Humphrey and Thomas.
3. William Perkins, gent. of Pilston, Monmouthshire, son of Christopher Perkins, son of Richard Perkins, and grandson of William Perkins, all of Pilston in the parish of Llandogo, I think, was most likely William, son of Richard Parkins, third son of Thomas Parkins of Mattisfield.

Another Worcestershire family, being probably a branch of ours, and of whom there is a short pedigree in the Philpott MS., emigrated to Ireland about the time of Charles I. (1625-1646), or Oliver Cromwell (1653-1658).

The Capels were of How Capel in Herefordshire, a few miles north of Newent. How Capel refers to the Worcestershire pedigree of "Perkin."

CHAPTER VII.

THE WARWICKSHIRE BRANCH

I have just looked at your Warwickshire notes and see that you have in "William Perkins, Knight, 1545," three distinct persons in one ("tria juncta in uno").

1. William, son of Thomas Perkins of Madresfield in Worcestershire, who was an older man than the father of the next.
2. William Perkins of Marston-Jabet, who was only 23 in 1545, and who was the same William whom you mention in 1553, and suggest he may have been his son. His father, John Perkins, died in 1557. Neither of them was a "Knight." The only Knight was
3. William Perkins, executed for high treason, 1696. He was a great-great-grandson of No. 2.

I particularly wish to point out some mistakes to you, partly because they are a serious obstacle to progress with your work, and from your misapprehension of some statements a possible clue seemed likely to be lost.

The notion of recording all that one may have heard is very good, but a mistake is made in mixing up what are evidently *suggestions* or *opinions* of various people with *traditions*, instead of giving each separately and with its authority, and writing them all together in narrative form as if historical; so, sometimes, in nearly all that refers to a family descent, we get two or more differing and often contradictory accounts of the same persons.

Perhaps a person began many years ago to write what he picked up of his family history, in the form of a skelton narrative, continually filling in new facts and suggestions of his own or of other people, and, unfortunately, without dates or references, so that in later times when his original letters are lost or his memory fails him, he naturally confuses not only his facts, but the persons from whom he obtained them.

I point this out to you chiefly as a warning against the system of mixing up various authorities and one's own opinions, instead of giving the exact words of each separately, and so when it comes to printing they are all confused in the account.

I have just looked at LeNeve, to whom you refer, and see how your mistake arose. He had no pedigree of his Sir William Perkins, so made a note (above his name of his ancestor William Perkins, No. 2), probably taken from Dugdale (who probably, or someone before him) mistook William Perkins for his father John, who appears to have been seized of the Manor of Marston-Jabet in 1545.

Sir William Perkyns of Marston-Jabet had a careful pedigree prepared from Records. I have verified and added to it from wills, etc., etc., and it will appear in Miss Sharp's book with others.

The Heralds (or their clerks) wrote both the Marston-Jabet family in 1619 and the Ufton family in 1623. "Perkins": the Marston-Jabet family continued "Parkyns" always; at any rate till 1850, when I met the lineal descendant of Sir William Parkyns in the position of head groom to a member of the Royal family.

Among your Lichfield wills* is 1569, "Emote Parkyns." From the Christian name and date I should think she was the mother (or step-mother) of William Parkyns, who, according to Dugdale, bought Marston-Jabet, which was on the border of Leicestershire, very remote from Salford, which, though for electoral and other purposes was in Warwickshire, for all practical and social purposes was in Worcestershire; it was not a parish, only a manor or hamlet in the parish of Bulkington, and that family did not, I believe, bear arms till the seventeenth century.

Among the wills are three or four from Salford in the same parish as Abbots Salford, on the Worcestershire side of it and in the Madresfield district (as I call it) on the very edge of a bit of Warwickshire running into Worcestershire and in the diocese of Worcester.

You have from the pedigree in Nichols' Leicestershire, "John Perkins baptized 1443," and two or three of his descendants who were baptized at Marston-Jabet, including Sir Christopher in 1556.

We hope to find Parish Registers as early as the first year of Elizabeth (1558), but rarely do so in the country, and baptisms were generally in the parish church and the Register kept there.

Books relating to Puritans and Puritanism in England might throw some light directly or indirectly on the subject, possibly mentioning (if not names of persons) locations in which there was a rise of Puritanism. The dates already known are in a very good period for Parish Registers.

*The oldest will in the Lichfield Probate Registry is that of Richard Perkyns of Monks Kirby in Warwickshire. It was made in 1501, duly registered, but the registration was subsequently cancelled and with the date changed to February 6, 1521, was again registered and proved in 1522.

So it looks as if the will was first offered in Court during the lifetime of the testator, then withdrawn, and again, after the death of the testator proved in Court. Except the dates the two wills are identical.

The testator mentions "John Parkyns, son of Wyllm Pyrkyms" (who was, no doubt, John Parkyns of Marston-Jabet), and Ellyn my wyfe executrix." John Perkyns was one of the two overseers.

The "Wyllm Pyrkyms" mentioned in the will was, no doubt, the ancestor of the Marston-Jabet family, and, perhaps, the same person who was the trustee to the Ufton settlement of 1495.

CHAPTER VIII.

THE HEREFORDSHIRE AND MONMOUTHSHIRE BRANCHES

There is a pedigree of six or seven generations in the late Visitation of Herefordshire and Monmouthshire of a family which, from a similarity of names and arms would probably be a branch of the Madresfield family.

So far the Worcester and Hereford wills show that a considerable number of "Perkines" (who left wills) were in the neighborhood forty or fifty years before John Perkins emigrated, and if any of you ever care to search, you will know something of what you may expect to find.

At Hereford the wills were in a state of chaos, not to be found or seen, but I managed to find an old list of them and scribbled down as many of the names as I could as I hoped to find some light on the Humphreys, whose names and dates I had only, and on some others in my list.

My memorandum of names and dates is from hasty pencil notes taken from an old Index in 1872.

Like the Worcester wills, they are mostly or all short wills of persons in moderate circumstances.

After some months' delay, from illness of my correspondent, Mr. Earle, the chief clerk, I got a few notes from Hereford from names sent. I send all the names I have, with the notes so obtained precisely as sent me. In country districts they have not much practice among ancient wills, and the writer seems to have been puzzled once or twice. I have marked those Hereford wills, of which I have obtained notes, and one or two names which were sent me, I suppose, as a makeshift for the meagreness of the notes, and I have added a few wills from London referring to the Newent neighborhood.

The neighborhood of Newent was full of Perkines, because so many being found from a casual glance at a few wills only we may be quite sure that these represent only a few by comparison to the large number that were there.

We know there were many Perkines in the neighborhood; more, perhaps, than in most counties, and I should think some of those in the corners of Herefordshire and Worcestershire (near Newent) would no doubt be descended from Parkyns of Madresfield (afterwards of Nottinghamshire), Madresfield being about fifteen miles from Newent, and several places with which the family was connected, either by having property in them or having married from them, being as near or nearer.

Neighbors and relatives often emigrated together, or one followed on another's good report. So a new plantation or society would contain people from various neighboring English villages and a name

suited to all would be selected, such as the name of the principal town of their county, or the market town of their district. Newent was the market town of its district, and though small, had formerly a population of 2,000; large in comparison with the surrounding villages.

The chief (I fear I may say the only) use of such stray wills to you will be in suggesting that there must have been a very large number of persons of the name in the district near Newent, and in the groups in which they are located. Hereford and Callow are the places where Richard Parkyns of Bunny had property in 1603; West Hide were his mother's family, Twynborough, came from.

Those wills I have marked have been recently procured from names sent, excepting two names in 1556 and 1571, which I appear to have missed, viz.: Roger Perkins of Pulverbatch in Shropshire, a long way from Newent, and John Parkyns of Much Dewchurch (Dewchurch Magna), close to Callow.

Mr. Earle gives "the parish of Frome," avoiding an abbreviation "Epi.," which means *Episcopi Anglice*, "Bishop's Frome," in distinction from "Canons Frome," another parish, etc. There are two places, Woferlow, now Woofertlow, and Woferton, now Wooferton; I prefer the former, though hardly legible in my old pencil notes, because when I wrote it I did not know there was such a place and because it is close to other parishes mentioned. The will of James Perkins, 1614, in the London Registry, shows property in Upleadon and Harpury (Hartburie) close to Newent (all three in Co. Gloucester) and Ledbury (Co. Hereford), which seems about eight miles north of Newent and six miles south of Evesbatch, Co. Hereford, and other places in other wills; in fact Ledbury would be the capital and market town of that nest of Hereford Perkinses.

You will find an index of names and places the greatest possible use to you when you begin your work in earnest. For instance, in some will or other document you will come upon a name, say "John Waldron," which of itself suggests nothing to you. As a matter of form you proceed to enter it in its proper places in your index and there you find the same name, "John Waldron," entered a long time before and forgotten; and referring to the page, find that it occurs in a will of another Perkins, perhaps in another county. To cite another example: "Eliz. Cotterel" is mentioned in two London wills I sent you, tracing to the Newent neighborhood, Tewkesbury bailiffs, and Ledbury in Herefordshire.

CHAPTER IX.

THE GLOUCESTERSHIRE BRANCH

I tried to group Mr. Whitmore's Gloucester wills into probable near relations and connect them with the pedigree of "Perkin," but I cannot find my notes and you will have no difficulty. Among the Gloucester wills is one of Thomas Perkins of Tewkesbury, 1553, who had a son Robert living at Cogdon. I cannot find such a place; perhaps it is a mistake for Longdon, near Tewkesbury, suggesting that the above Robert Perkins of Longdon, who also died in 1553, was brother (?) to Thomas Perkins, and that Robert, son of Thomas, was living with his uncle at Longdon, Worcestershire.

Then the will of Elizabeth Perkins, widow, of Tewkesbury, 1566, mentions her kinsman John Tyrvell, which, I expect, is the ordinary misspelling perhaps for Turberville, whose name you will find in one of the following Perkins wills, and in the list of bailiffs in which a Thomas Perkins appears as the first bailiff of Tewkesbury, elected in 1574, under the charter of Queen Elizabeth. The bailiffs were probably all of them wealthy yeomen or tradesmen, and many of ancient descent, though probably ignorant of it in those days of bad traveling and postal arrangements. For instance Turberville was quite ignorant of the fact that he was a not very remote descendant of the ancient Norman family of Turberville of Coyty Castle, Glamorganshire.

You mention that John Perkins emigrated *from Bristol*. By a will there appear to have been some of the name in good position at Bristol in 1493; so far back as that date a "John Perkins of Bristol" died leaving plate, etc., to his son, also John Perkins. This would be five or six generations before your ancestor, and possibly no relation to him, but it shows the difficulty of tracing a "John Perkins" without some strong clue. The great thing is to start from some proved certainty in America. I do not think that any member of our family could be traced to have emigrated from Nottinghamshire so early as 1630, but from the position of Newent, it is not improbable that your ancestor may have descended from a common ancestor with the Nottinghamshire family (and Berkshire). It is well to bear such things in mind, but not to rely on them, as they may be only coincidences and two persons of the name of "Perkins," or even of "John Perkins," might be found living at the same date, and in the same place, without being at all related.

CHAPTER X.

OTHER BRANCHES

Most of your Dorsetshire notes came, I think, from Hutchins' History. Among them is one of the Rev. "Jacobus" (James, unless you have some reason for translating it "Jacob") Perkyns. His disconsolate widow may have been told by the undertaker or marble mason that it was the right thing to put a coat-of-arms on her late husband's gravestone. So it was — from their point of view — to add a few pounds to their bills. So they put on that of the Nottinghamshire family — an example of what I have said. It would not do to accept from the use of that coat-of-arms that he descended from the Nottinghamshire family, because he did not. It is curious that he does not appear among the Oxford matriculations. From the adoption of our coat-of-arms as lately as 1702, I should have thought his name was Parkyns, not Perkyns, because at that date the names were quite distinct. Then I should have guessed him as the James Parkyns, son of Nathaniel of Molesey, Surrey, who matriculated in June, 1687, aged 14. That seems very young and suggests a mistake. Rev. James would have been 17 then, or in November following. Though matriculated at Trinity College, he may have gained a Corpus fellowship.

In his Latin epitaph "olim" is "formerly," and "socius," "fellow"; translated, the epitaph reads "Of the College of Corpus Christi, formerly a fellow; lately Rector of this church," etc.

You have three or four notes of "Perkins" or "Parkyns" of Wareham, County Dorset. This name caught my eye in trying to find places in the U. S. with likely English names, and you have Wareham, Mass., which suggests a possible emigrant from the neighborhood of our Wareham.

I remember, too, that Colonel Chester's ancestor (I think) emigrated from Dorsetshire.

I have a note of the will of *William Parkyns* of Bestwell near Wareham, yeoman, who died in 1557, leaving two sons, Thomas, the elder, who got very little, and William, the younger, who got the bulk of their father's property, and who may have been the William Perkins of Wareham, who died in 1584, and he, possibly, may have been father of the William Perkins of Byeartwall (near Wareham) who died in 1613, and so on.

There is no parish of Byeartwall or Bestwall (I do not know which is correct), so it was probably a hamlet or farm in the parish of Wareham, and a Perkins living there would be described as of the hamlet or as of the parish.

A note from one Dorsetshire will that I have shows that the family was "Parkynes" in 1605 and had no Scriptural names, but a Ralph or Alice, several brothers, but no Edmund.

Also your *John Parkyns* of Dorchester, merchant, who died in 1640, appears to have had a son *William Perkins* (as I have him; perhaps incorrectly), also of Dorchester, merchant, who died in 1631, leaving his father, "Mr. John Perkins" of Dorchester, merchant, executor, etc. They seem to have been well off for their time. I could give you particulars of those and some other wills in various parts of the county if they would interest you.

There were people of the name of Perkins in Northamptonshire as in almost every other English county. By a curious coincidence the only Isaac Perkins that I remember was in a printed book and connected with Northamptonshire. John Butler of Appletree, in that county, was born in 1626, and died in 1689. He married Martha, daughter of Rev. Isaac Perkins of Catesby, who was probably born before 1600. As, no doubt you know, clergymen are not usually found in their native neighborhood. He may have been born two hundred miles from Northamptonshire — anywhere, in fact.

I do not think the Perkins' "bill"* case suggests more than some bill transaction in which Perkins and Jonathan Wade were interested, but it seems so obscurely worded that I cannot make out what the transaction was.

I have found a note of the Devonshire Abraham Perkins, evidently from wills, which I enclose, though of no great use to you. Like the Cornwall people, they were "Parkin" or "Parkinge" in 1628 and 1634, and Perkins in 1675.

You have a note of Rev. William Perkins, D. D., of Cambridge. He was a well-known Puritan Divine and his *personal* history is, perhaps, as correct as other biographies. All about Marston-Jabet and Sir Christopher Parkins being his brother is, I take it, purely imaginary. I have a note of the above from a pedigree of Orton, as given in Nichols' History of Leicestershire. I copied it long ago as a curiosity. I did not exhibit it at the "Inventions Exhibition" — I ought to have done so. The abbreviated sentence in the epitaph of the priest, John Perkins, means "Cujus animae propicietur Deus, Amen" (freely translated "On whose soul may God have mercy, Amen.")

*June 2nd, 1635. "Ordered that a war(ran)t shall be sent to — Norton to bring into the nexte Court a bill of £5 made by Goodm(an) Perkins to Thomas Wade yt it may be safely kept till it appeare to whom it is due, the money being gyven (as the Court is informed) to Jonathan Wade his brother."—Records of Mass. Bay Colony, Vol. 1.

(Thomas Wade was a wealthy merchant of Northampton, about fifteen miles from Hillmorton in Warwickshire, and probably John Perkins bought of him utensils, supplies, etc., and so incurred the bill).

CHAPTER XI.

SIR CHRISTOPHER PARKINS

In a letter to Lord Burleigh he states that he has spent his time in books and politics and been now five years, a tenth of his life, on patient attendance, sustaining undeserved imprisonment and suspicion.—Calendar of State Papers, Domestic, Elizabeth, Vol. 1591-1594, p. 547.

(His own statement, as above, as to his age, makes it about 50 in 1593, and fixes 1543 as the year of his birth and identifies him as the scholar, aged 12, at Winchester in 1555.)

In March, 1596, he learnt that an objection had been taken to his employment by the queen, because it was said he had received his education abroad.

To meet this objection he drew up a paper, the contents of which are epitomized in the Calendar of Hatfield House MSS. (Hist. MSS. Com.), pt. vi., p. 122). In this paper he asserts that he went out of England after he was twenty years of age and denies that his education had been strange seeing that he was first at Winchester and then at Oxford.

The first inference to be drawn from this paper is that he was the scholar who is entered in the original Register of Winchester Scholars under the year 1555 thus:

"Xtoferes parkins de Redynge XII annorum primo Augusti
preterite: Sarum."

"Sarum" denotes the diocese from which the lad came and goes to show that "Redynge" means "Reading, Berkshire" (adjoining Ufton).

He was apparently born in 1543 and is probably distinct from the Christopher Perkins who became rector of "Eaton, Berkshire" (Kirby, p. 135). "Eaton" is evidently a mistake for "Easton, Hampshire," for, according to the Composition Books at the Record Office, the compositions which were made in respect to the first fruits of Easton Rectory, Hampshire, from 1536 onwards were as follows:

15 Dec. 1559, Christopherous Perkyuns, clericus.

16 Dec. 1559, John Deveres, clericus.

Why were there two compositions in December, 1559?

The correct answer would perhaps also settle the question whether Sir Christopher Parkins held the rectory of Eaton when he was only a lad about sixteen or seventeen years, etc., etc.—Notes and Queries, 9th Series, Vol. XI., p. 124, 1903.

The rector was (probably) the "Christopher" of the Ufton family mentioned by Miss Sharp (Ufton Court, pp. 46, 52, 62), who was married before 1555, as, in 1558, his unmarried daughters were then under twenty years of age.

I met Colonel Chester, the "American master of English genealogies learning" (as he is justly termed on a tablet erected to his memory in Westminster Abbey by the dean and chapter of Westminster at their own expense) while I was trying for my own amusement to find an "American cousin" in my own family.

I was taking an abstract of a will of another family when Colonel Chester (whom I did not know) came to me, and telling me that the official in charge of the room had told him my name he asked me if I could tell him anything about Sir Christopher. I told him that (oddly

enough) I had just seen something about him in the volume before me, and was turning over the leaves to find it when he said, "I know — Elizabeth Parkyns, widow * * * my loving and worshipful cousin Sir Christopher Parkyns" — and as usual he was quite right. He knew from the date of the volume what the will was and its contents.

He had already worked out carefully the Nottinghamshire family as far as possible before I knew him, from its settlement in 1570 to after 1700, but not the Ufton family, which I, as far as able, helped him with. He had devoted several years in England to materials for American descents generally, and was interested in that of Perkins from being related to one of the American families of that name.

I think he said his own family was connected with the Perkins family (he was born in Norwich, Conn.). He came to England persuaded that his family descended from a family I think in the north of England, but his researches had led him to a distinct family, I think in Dorsetshire.

I afterwards showed him settlements and other documentary evidence of relationship, but though both of us worked at it for a long time and found out the whole career of Sir Christopher from his college days to his death, we could not find evidence of his parentage.

Colonel Chester says (Westminster Abbey Register): "It is evident from the wills and other records of the family of this name at Bunny, county Nottinghamshire, that he was nearly allied to the contemporary ancestors of the first baronet, but the precise relationship has not yet been ascertained." You see that is more than an "opinion," and he could not have found space for all the evidence, and their dates proving relationship. I see that the "*Westminster Abbey Register*" was published in 1873. It is probable that we found out dates, etc., after that. He thought of publishing an illustrated edition with portraits and *fac similes* of writing. I gave him some autograph letters of various persons and showed him a letter signed "Chr. Parkins" in the British Museum.

I am surprised he did not put in the date of his B. A. degree at Oxford, and of his entering the Jesuit College at Rome, both of which I gave him, for I remember his showing me as a joke the marriage license, 1617, in which he described himself as "about 60," though he was 19 in 1566, and therefore just 70 in 1617.

Your account gives in continuous narrative form the story obtained from *Nichols' History of Leicestershire* and that from Colonel Chester's *Westminster Abbey Records*, with the result that your first sentence making Christopher son of George and Maria Perkins (who were quite unknown to the Marston-Jabet family) is contradicted by your last sentence mentioning that he was evidently nearly related to the Nottinghamshire family, who certainly had no connection with George and Maria.

CHAPTER XII.

EDMUND PERKINS OF BOSTON

I probably told Mr. Turner of an old American tradition of descent from our Nottinghamshire family of which his inquiries would be likely to remind me and (as he seemed to have no clue) sent him a few rough notes of the families I knew most (though not much) about then.

But Mr. Turner's only information from America (that the ancestor, Edmund, was an engineer in *fortification and shipping*, and had an eagle for coat-of-arms) threw me off the scent and I searched the records of Military Engineers (or rather some one did for me), but no Perkins was found; and among families from which in those days military officers were likely to spring.

Colonel Chester said Americans naturally supposed that they descended from the known English family of the name, as in his own case. He did not think much of traditions, etc., since his stay in England. He had all the known Perkins or Parkyns pedigrees and a mass of information about various distinct families of the name. He had nothing (at any rate so long as I was in correspondence with him) which directly referred to any emigrant of the name; if he had discovered anything afterwards I feel sure you would have heard of it, for he was much interested in the descent of the family.

Colonel Chester was unsuccessful in connecting the Perkins family with the English parent stock.

I know that he devoted the whole of his time to his work, and *rumor* said that he spent more than the whole of his means on it, and that his financial affairs were somewhat embarrassed. Rumor, however, generally lies. I only know from hearsay that his MSS. were left by him to a friend and his executor under his will. Mr. Waters would probably know all about it, but I am sorry to hear of the fate of his wonderful collections. I had left London a considerable time before his death. I do not know his executor except by name.

Colonel Chester or I found a considerable number of Edmunds before we could find one who appeared at all suitable. The Colonel was inclined to fix Edmund Perkins of Boston to a London family, in which there was an Edmund of right date, who was the fourth son of "John Perkins, gentleman," who died in London in 1665, at which date Edmund was a young man, probably under 21, and who had relations of an uncommon name (Boulter or Poulter) which he (Colonel Chester) knew in connection with the emigrant Edmund.

That was a very good clue. The Colonel believed in him because John Perkins, the father, had godsons, nephews and nieces of the name of Boulter or Poulter which he recognized in connection with the American family and for other reasons which at the moment I

cannot remember.

This "Edmund Perkins" had a brother and a cousin, besides his father, all named "John." So, if he could be made to fit with Edmund of Boston it would not be difficult to suppose that his father John had a cousin of the same name who may have lived at Newent and emigrated in 1630; and that his young relation Edmund joined him in America some forty years after. I do not know whether Colonel Chester ever traced this John Perkins to any of the known country families, as I left town soon after that Edmund was found.

Colonel Chester was a too able and experienced a genealogist to be *certain* about anything unless it was directly proved. He may have been mistaken in his opinion as to this Edmund and undoubtedly was mistaken if it can be *proved* that the Edmund who was related to your ancestor John Perkins emigrated long before 1665, but he was so seldom mistaken and so careful that I think it would be worth your while to trace so far as possible what "*evidence*" there is in America about Edmund Perkins.

I think that if the Colonel had known that, as you inform me, Edmund of Boston was a "master shipwright," it would have greatly strengthened his opinion, for I could have shown him a strong *probability* that the London family he fancied was related to a family of the name who were master shipwrights and connected with shipping and the sea, and one of whom, Edward Perkins, sailed for Virginia in 1627, though he seems to have died young and unmarried; the several probabilities seem to point to the family from which an Edmund Perkins, master shipwright, was likely to emigrate at a later date, and no doubt we should have exploited that family thoroughly. "Master shipwright" is a very good clue, supposing that the emigrant was a young man when he emigrated. Ship building was a very special trade, needing special knowledge and habits, and as Pepys (I think) remarks, commonly hereditary in those days. One would naturally look for such an emigrant from a seaport, and it is not likely that in those days there would be many families of Perkins ship builders in England. Of course there may have been two different Edmunds of different American families who emigrated at different times.

In the missing letter I expressed my opinion that the name of Edmund Perkins of Boston was not taken from that of Edmund Perkins of Ufton — who is a very old acquaintance of mine. When searching for an emigrant of that name with Colonel Chester I found many of that name and date in various parts of England, and among them Edmund of Ufton, and we both studied him carefully.

CHAPTER XIII.

REV. WILLIAM PERKINS OF TOPSFIELD, MASS.

"(June 5, 1632, arrived). The William and Francis, Mr. Thomas master, with about sixty passengers. (She) set sail from London March the 9th."—History of New England, by John Winthrop.

(June 5, 1632). William Perkins, a passenger on the William and Francis, arrived at Boston.—Hotten's List of Emigrants.

The notes of Worcestershire wills I sent you suggest that the family of Rev. William Perkins was located at Salford considerably before 1541. I cannot find at this moment your account of Rev. William in America, except so far as contained in your recent notes. I must have mislaid it, but no doubt shall find it. The only point is whether he left any children, and my impression is that you said none had been traced.

His father, leaving Salford, settled in London, and many others. His grandfather was a "yeoman" and the Worcester wills suggest two more generations of the same degree. If so, Rev. William would have had to prove a pedigree of several generations to an ancestor who bore arms, which would have been very costly, besides the heavy fees of the Heralds for confirmation.

No family of the name has been traced to bear arms in Warwickshire. This reminds me of your remark that as he descended from a Warwickshire family which used a coat-of-arms you supposed that the silver seal which appears in the inventory of the estate bore that coat.

I am surprised that you think it evident that he used a coat-of-arms because he had a silver seal. In England it would have been exceptional for an ordinary clergyman, especially if of Puritan tendencies. His modest "silver seal" does not suggest heraldic display or inclination to spend a large sum for a "confirmation" (or twice as much for a "grant" of arms).

Everyone who wrote letters had a seal (of necessity) down to my time, when adhesive envelopes were invented; but for one seal with a coat-of-arms there were probably thousands with other devices. Malvolio's words

"The impressure is her Lucrece, with which she uses to seal" show Shakespeare's view of the custom in his day, in the seal of a countess.

I have only four seals, all long in my family: one is a head, one Bacchus, one Hope, and the fourth initials J. P.

When you mentioned that he was son of William Perkins, a merchant tailor of London, it struck me that the father's will might be found. A will* has been found of a William Perkins, merchant tailor,

*Prerogative Court of Canterbury, reference, "Ruthen," page 450. This will is printed in full in the "History of Ufton Court and the Perkins Family," by A. Mary Sharp.

of London, of same date and agreeing in nearly every respect, and I enclose a copy of the abstract, in which you will observe the following coincidences, remembering that the "City of London" was and is a small area around which an enormous population has since grown, and that it is a curious coincidence, if two men of same name and trade, and alike in so many other particulars, existed at the same time.

George Perkins of Salford, Warwickshire, England, married Katherine ———, and it is probable his son would have a niece of that name. His four daughters, one of whom was named Beatrice, and son Thomas were all born before 1576, and therefore probably dead before 1657. His son William, born in 1579, would be 78 in 1657.

William Perkins, merchant tailor, of London, the testator, had a daughter Rebecca and two others who also married. He had a niece Katherine, daughter of a sister married to ——— Fosbrooke of Bridgenorth, Shropshire, and a "cousin" (often used for niece) named Beatrice. He died in 1657 (evidently an old man). His second (or third) wife and widow "Jane" was probably much younger than he, for at his death she was living with two unmarried daughters by a former husband. One of his sons and his three daughters, no doubt by former wives, had twenty-one children living among them. At his death he left two surviving sons, William, and Edward who apparently was unmarried.

Besides leaving a legacy to his son William, he also left £100 more among William's "seven children," and their legacies were to be paid at their ages of fourteen or fifteen — which probably was about the age of the oldest.

His provision that his son William's *seven* children who were then living should have their legacies at fourteen and fifteen (meaning, probably, half at each age) is, I think, curious.

It suggests that his son William's oldest children had reached that age; and this theory seems to have been a fact. On the whole, the coincidences are remarkable if William Perkins, merchant tailor of London, and whose son William had settled in America, and the testator of same name, locality and trade, living contemporaneously, are not the same person.

The testator may have had other sons who died without issue before 1657. William, the eldest, was neither executor nor overseer of his father's will, which looks as if he was rather wild in his youth and had emigrated and settled elsewhere.

Edward, the youngest son, born in 1622, was fifteen years younger than William and was executor of his father's will, of which the sons-in-law were the overseers.

Two of the testator's daughters had each a daughter named "Mary," to whom he bequeathed a double legacy, probably as his god-daughters.

CHAPTER XIV

JUDGE PERKINS

An extract from "The Shoe and Canoe," or "Pictures, etc., in the Canadas," by John J. Bigsby, M. D., 2 vols., London, 1850:

I was one evening sitting at tea alone, near the window in the eating-room overlooking the river, after a hard day's work mineral hunting in some quarries four miles below Detroit. My being served with tea out of the usual course was a great favor. The kindness of the landlady had added the luxuries of preserves, honey and buckwheat cakes to the refreshing meal.

All the boarders were gone to a rifle match. I had taken one cup and was deep in a new-bought book when I was suddenly awakened by a singular command uttered close to my ear:

"Put down that book, sir! You and I are to pass the evening in this room and it is not to be spent in reading."

I looked up at the stranger and my vexation was at once quieted.

I beheld a remarkably good-looking, white-haired, old gentleman, smiling kindly upon me out of open, candid eyes, from under a broad-brimmed hat. He was dressed much like a Quaker; and yet he did not belong to that sect of prim faces and noble hearts. He had on a brown single-breasted coat and pantaloons to match, white neckcloth, and white stockings, and — rare to see hereabouts — his shoes were well blacked.

As, somehow, I did not speak, after standing some moments, he said: "Pray 'sir, who are you?" "Oh, sir," I replied, beginning to be not well pleased at the interruption, "I am a poor, unfortunate, stray Englishman." I was about to say more, when he broke in upon me exclaiming: "I am surprised to hear you speak so lightly, and untruly. The poverty is not great where there is butter and 'honey' (glancing at the table); and let me tell you that it is an estate to be an 'Englishman. Never jest with your lofty birthright. You are the countryman of 'Alfred, Shakespeare, Newton and Wilberforce. To England and her lineage 'is committed by the God above us the schooling of the nations. I shall take a 'cup of tea with you.'" With that he called for a cup and saucer, and a fresh infusion of hyson.

Having sat down, he at once asked me from what part of England I came. Having told him that I came from Nottinghamshire, "What!" he cried out: "from the county of Byron and Kirke White; of Cranmer and Hartley; of the 'Savilles, the Willoughbys and the Parkyns!"

Here I interrupted him in my turn: "Under the circumstances I am entitled, 'sir, to ask respectfully to whom I have the honor of addressing myself?"

"I am," he answered, "Judge Perkins, by descent a Parkyns of Nottinghamshire, one of the blood of blunt Sir Thomas the wrestler; my grandfather being 'the first to leave English soil. Tomorrow I hold a district court at this place. 'I reside at Greenfield, about eight miles down the river, where I shall be happy 'to see you and show you my numerous family and pretty place."

I thanked him cordially, but expressed a fear that the shortness of my stay would deprive me of the great pleasure of accepting his friendly invitation.

I had previously heard of Judge Perkins as being popular and much respected in the neighborhood, and that it was quite impossible he could intrude at Detroit. I think he occupied full two hours in questions about his dear old county, its present condition in agriculture and manufactures, its nobles and gentry; Merry Sherwood, Thoresby, and the square old tower of Bunny Hall, the seat of the Parkyns. He even knew the quaint old motto over the old world village school-house, "Disce vel discede."

Being joined at meals by strangers is common at inns in the country parts of the United States. Besides, in a person of Judge Perkins' age and station, it was an act of condescension to join my tea table.

No attempt was made for many years to ascertain the identity of and obtain further particulars relating to the personal and judicial career of Judge Perkins; but recently answers to inquiries supplied the following facts and information. The answers are as follows:

THE PUBLIC LIBRARY

Detroit, April 26, 1910.

Sir:

I have your inquiry about Judge Perkins, who, you say, about 1820, was judge of a court which embraced Detroit in its jurisdiction.

We have examined the upwards of thirty-five volumes of Pioneer Collections and the local newspapers of about the period you mention and do not find his name. It does not appear in the published list of judges of our courts of various periods going back to 1805. The name Perkins is not rare, the most prominent of which was a Capt. Thomas Perkins, who was in the army and in charge of the military arms, etc., of Fort Shelby. Regretting that I am not able to supply facts about the person of whom you inquire, I remain

Very truly yours,

(Signed)

H. M. UTLEY.

Librarian.

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

LAW LIBRARY

Librarian's Office

Ann Arbor, Mich., Apl. 30, 1910.

Sir:

In answer to your inquiry regarding a Judge Perkins, I regret to say that our records show no such name. We have lists of all the early judges in Michigan and in addition to these I consulted biographical and historical works relating to early Michigan.

I suggest, however, that you write Mr. Clarence M. Burton, Abstract Office, Detroit, Mich. He is better informed about everything connected with Detroit and Michigan than any other living man.

Hoping that you may succeed in obtaining the desired information, I am

Very truly,

(Signed)

GERTRUDE ELSENER WOODARD.

THE BURTON LIBRARY

(Devoted to Americana)

Detroit, Mich., April 26, 1910.

Sir:

The librarian of the Law Library sent me your letter and the librarian of the Public Library telephoned me on the same subject. I have been unable to find any person by the name of Perkins who held any official position in Detroit in 1820, or about that time. He certainly was not judge of any court, nor was he justice of the peace. If he bore the title of "Judge" he must have obtained it from some other place and brought it here with him.

The old military storekeeper was named "perkins." The name Perkins is not uncommon, but you are after some particular person. I presume you are hunting this up for genealogical purposes, and if you are, you have a lot of information regarding them that you already have collected. If you will give as much information as you possess I will try to assist you to something further.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

C. M. BURTON.

JUDGE PERKINS
THE BURTON LIBRARY
(Devoted to Americana)

Detroit, Mich., May 2, 1910.

Sir:

I have been very much interested in your letter of the 28th ult. regarding Judge Perkins.

As I said in my previous letter, there never was any Judge Perkins in Detroit or Michigan in the olden times, such as your extract seems to imply. John Jeremiah Bigsby probably came to Detroit in June, 1820. Mr. Ogilvy, the commissioner appointed on the British side under the treaty of Ghent, had died, and Mr. Barkley had been appointed to his place. The commissioners began their sessions in 1820 and held their first meeting on Grosse Isle, which is about fifteen or twenty miles below the city. Mr. Bigsby was a physician who had lived in Canada since 1818, and was a member of Mr. Barkley's party. According to Mr. Bigsby's narrative, he came to the city at this time and took apartments in a hotel here at which this imaginary conversation took place. I have been trying to determine who he meant by the title of Judge Perkins. In order to do this I want you to examine his narrative. He says he was in the eating-room overlooking the river.

There were, at this time, two large hotels, one called the Woodworth Hotel, owned by Benjamin Woodworth, and the other called the Mansion House, owned by Judge Augustus Brevoort Woodward. The Mansion House was not on the river, but was on the northerly side of Jefferson Avenue, so that if Mr. Bigsby's narrative is correct, he could not have been in the eating-room in that hotel overlooking the river.

The Woodworth Hotel was not on the river, but was so near to it that it could be readily seen, and that part of the description would be all right. I judge then that Mr. Bigsby was in the Woodworth Hotel. If this is right, it precludes the idea of Judge Woodward being the Judge he refers to as Judge Perkins, for he undoubtedly boarded at his own hotel.

There were two characters in Detroit at this time, who might well fit the description he gives to Judge Perkins, save that neither of them was very aged at this time. The one is Judge Woodward I have referred to; the other Judge Woodbridge. William Woodbridge at this time was a delegate to Congress. I have Judge Woodbridge's private papers and correspondence, and from them I ascertained that he remained in Washington until the end of the session, and that he returned to Detroit a few days before the commissioners came. It is probable he met the commissioners. The American commissioner was Gen. Peter B. Porter, grandfather, I think, of the present Congressman Peter A. Porter of Niagara or Buffalo. I do not find any letters in my collection between Mr. Bigsby and Judge Woodbridge, nor with Mr. Barkley.

Just a few days before the commissioners met, Lewis Cass left Detroit with a number of gentlemen on the trip to the Northwest to negotiate a treaty with the Indians.

I might further say that at this time Gov. Woodbridge was not a Judge, although he became one within a few years. I might further say that at this time there was no Circuit Court in this county, nor any other court that would imply that it was in a circuit.

The two important courts were the County Court, which was of quite inferior jurisdiction, something like the Justice of the Peace, and the Supreme Court, which was a federal territorial court, and of which the judges at that time were Chief Justice Woodward, John Griffin and James Witherell. None of these men exactly fit the description. Woodward was very bombastic and in that particular somewhat agrees with Judge Perkins. He was appointed in 1805, and in 1820 must have been nearly sixty years of age. He was uncommonly dirty in his dress and in his use of tobacco. He was highly educated and loved to display his abilities.

Griffin was indolent, not talkative, and of very little consequence, except that he had political friends sufficiently strong to keep him in the office that he, also, had held since 1805. I cannot imagine that he would in any way fit the picture of Judge Perkins. Both Judge Woodward and Griffin were bachelors, and in that respect quite disagree with Judge Perkins and his family.

Judge Witherell had been a physician in Vermont and had come to Detroit some years before the war of 1812. My impression is that he lost a leg in the service, and if he was the man Mr. Bigsby referred to this matter would not have been omitted. He lived in the Campus Martius in one of the most prominent locations in the city, and this disagrees with the description. He owned a farm about a mile above the city. This also disagrees with the description, for Judge Perkins lived seven or eight miles below the city. He had a family consisting of two sons, James and Benjamin, and three daughters, Mrs. Palmer, Mrs. Watson, and Mrs. Hurd. I do not believe he can be Judge Perkins.

Now, let us look again at Mr. Woodbridge, afterwards, Judge Woodbridge. He owned a farm about a mile south of the village, which was then in the township of Springwells, and is now in the City of Detroit. He came from Marietta, Ohio, in 1814. He had a family that consisted of four children: two sons, Dudley and William, and two daughters, Mrs. Abbott and Mrs. Backus. One of the sons is still living, Dudley, a very old man. I believe some of these children were living in 1820, but I have no means now of telling. He was a man of ordinary stature: in later years of weazened face, but at this time he must have been a young man. He never had a long, flowing beard. He was highly educated and in many ways answers this description, except that at this time he was not a judge. He could not have said "Tomorrow I hold a court at this place."

Judge Perkins lived at Greenfield, about eight miles down the river. In 1820 there was a township of Greenfield, north of Detroit, but I doubt if there was a dwelling house in the whole township.

Eight miles down the river would bring us to the township of Ecorse, now just outside the city limits. The writer says that he was engaged the day before this narrative in mineral hunting in some quarries four miles below Detroit. He has drawn on his imagination. Four miles below Detroit was, at that time, covered with sand dunes, and the most profitable crop was the Indian graves; nothing else would grow there.

There are no mineral quarries within a hundred miles of Detroit, except the salt mines recently developed within the city limits.

I could have believed that Mr. Bigsby's narrative was pure fiction, unless it is explained by one other matter: General Simon Perkins, of Warren, Ohio, a Revolutionary soldier, owned some land on Grosse Isle. He was in Detroit in the year 1820, and I find by the newspapers that he left this place on May 24th.

He did not live here but was here looking after his property. He may have been a judge in his own county, and possibly Howe's History of Ohio will tell you. I did not look it up as I did not have time. If he is not the man, Mr. Bigsby may have made up a composite of all the characters I have referred to.

Respectfully yours,

(Signed)

C. M. BURTON.

A chart of the pews of the First Ecclesiastical Society of New London, Conn., dated 1806, shows that many of the leading citizens of that town were pew-holders, and among them was Elias Perkins.

"The prices of the pews ranged from \$1.25 to \$40.00, the latter sum having been paid by Judge Perkins."—Records and Papers of the New London County Historical Society, Part I, Vol. II, page 96.

"Hon. Elias Perkins was born in Lisbon, Conn., April 5, 1767, but was from early life a resident of New London. He was a socius of Yale College from 1818; M. C., 1801 to 1803, and Mayor 1829 to 1832. He died in New London, September 27, 1845."—Hist. New London, by Miss F. M. Caulkins.

In 1820 a gentleman from this country, visiting in America, met at Detroit a much-respected Judge Perkins, "a remarkably handsome old gentleman" (whose grandfather may have been a young man in 1720). In a long and interesting conversation the Judge told him that his ancestor was from Nottinghamshire, "of the blood" of the blunt old wrestler, Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny, and surprised him with his knowledge of the county history, etc., and of the Hall and village of Bunny.

The Englishman who told me about Judge Perkins soon after my return to England in 1849 was a Dr. Bigsby, who was employed on the Canadian Boundary Commission. He afterwards sent me the book he wrote containing the story. As the book is not of sufficient importance to be well known in England, it may not be at all known in the United States; especially as (excepting these few pages) it is all about Canada.

I trace the descent of the Nottinghamshire tradition in America to recent times through "Judge Perkins" mentioned in a former letter, who was an old man in 1820, and therefore probably born during the life of Edmund Perkins (the younger) of Boston.

I told Colonel Chester that many years before I had heard of a Judge Perkins who had claimed descent from the Nottinghamshire family, about 1820, mentioning his high character, etc., but not, I think, Detroit. He said that he knew of the Judge and his high character; in fact, I think he said he was related to him; and he had brought the Nottinghamshire family tradition with him from America. Possibly he meant another Judge Perkins, and not at all near Detroit, but the fact of two traditions would only strengthen the case. I may have mistaken the date (1820) or the author may have mistaken the place, Detroit.

After that he makes the Judge talk "like a book," and as like himself in style as a pair of Siamese twins, though no two men could be more unlike. His story is that "after a hard day's work" seeking minerals, he was having a late meal when the Judge surprised him, as mentioned, and continued asking him questions about the county for "*full two hours.*" After which, we may assume, the Doctor went to bed, and next day (or when convenient) made a note of what he remembered of the interview, and (nearly thirty years after) wrote his notes in what he considered the correct style for a light book.

I don't suppose the frank, straight-forward old Judge ever said: "I am Judge Perkins, by descent a Parkyns of Nottinghamshire; one of the blood of blunt Sir Thomas, the wrestler; my grandfather being the first to leave English soil." Not a bit like him! If he had meant to say that his grandfather was a son of the wrestler he would have said so and have mentioned his name.

He believed (from tradition) in descent from the Nottinghamshire family, and that therefore he was of the same blood (*i. e.*, same stock or family) as the well-known "wrestler." I feel sure that he never

said that his grandfather was the first to leave English soil. Suppose that your own grandfather (whom, perhaps, you remember well) had been the first of your family, would you (or anyone as interested as the Judge was) go on asking questions about a county for "full two hours" and never mention your grandfather's name or the place he had lived in, or ask about your relations in England? The Judge, perhaps, said his grandfather was the first to come "*here*" (meaning Detroit), or something else which Dr. Bigsby misunderstood to mean the first *emigrant*, and then thought the words "to leave English soil" would sound "prettier" in a book. The Judge would know from the spelling of his name that his branch must have been separated from the Nottinghamshire family at an early period, before the spelling became fixed.

I have noticed one thing which I did not note before, viz., that Judge Perkins is reported to have said that his *grandfather* was the first who left England. That would suggest his emigration at about 1720 or 1730, but this may have been a mistake, as if related to the Nottinghamshire family so recently as that date his name would not have been spelled "Perkins"; and that the writer may have made a note in 1821, of what he remembered of the conversation, but he did not write for publication till 1847-8. And so, very likely would make a mistake about the "grandfather," or, possibly, the Judge may have meant that his "grandfather" was the first who located in the neighborhood of Detroit. Anyhow, a mistake of that kind is so easily made, but I have given you, verbatim, what Dr. Bigsby says.

But from your notes I see that you have shown, clearly and correctly, that Judge Perkins' grandfather could not have been one of the four sons of Sir Thomas Parkyns, the second Baronet, of Bunny.

I sent you the extract because you wished it, and as an interesting curiosity. But the only facts worth paying attention to for genealogical purposes are that Dr. Bigsby met a Judge Perkins who believed that he was related to the Nottinghamshire family, and took great interest in the county.

If his grandfather had emigrated as a grown man with the name "Parkyns," the Judge would have been "Parkyns" also. It is not likely that it would have been so soon changed to "Perkins," and if his family had so lately emigrated he would have given more particulars, Christian names, and the place in Nottinghamshire from which his grandfather emigrated; and as he was talking to a Nottinghamshire man, he would have asked, "Do you know the village of ———?"

His grandfather would probably be about 50, at the Judge's birth, and may have lived till his grandson, the Judge, was between 20 and 30, or even older, and the Judge was not likely to change the name. I cannot find any suggestion in Dr. Bigsby's book that the Judge's knowledge of the county, etc., was from what he *had heard from his father and grandfather*. On the contrary, a man who, from interest in the subject, would pass two full hours in questioning a stranger,

would most likely have talked the matter over, frequently, before; and most certainly would have read books, in which all that he said would be found; besides, his mention of the way in which Americans were welcomed in Europe suggests that he had visited England.

If no trace can be found of him around Detroit, I should think Dr. Bigsby's notes and memory got mixed before 1850, and that he had somehow confused a conversation with some other gentleman at Detroit, and what he had heard of Judge Perkins at some other place. It is not likely he would invent such a story, which has nothing particularly interesting in it, and it would be a curious coincidence, for there was a Judge Perkins somewhere in America about same date and just answering his description; and there was a tradition of descent from the Nottinghamshire family.

In your letter you say that if the Judge's statement can be relied upon he was, indeed, a descendant of the Nottinghamshire family, but not of John Perkins, senior. That is quite true, if for one moment we could suppose that we have anything like the Judge's words. Dr. Bigsby was neither a genealogist nor historian, but from what I have heard of him and from the general tone of his writing I should think he might be safely relied on for truth, that he wrote in all fairness an account of his visit to America, so far as he remembered it, with every inclination to interest general readers and no object to mislead, and that the story of Judge Perkins is substantially true. His notes, written from a recollection of a two hours' conversation and (after 27 years) put into somewhat bookish phraseology, would, perhaps, be liable to err. For instance, as to the "grandfather" who would have been of the date of a son of "the wrestler"; and no person of the name had been traced in Nottinghamshire, at that date, say 1700-1720.

He relates his interview with the Judge in conversational form, but anyone can see that he does not give the Judge's words, except, perhaps, his first sentence, which surprised him and impressed itself on his memory.

Your need is to get a clue to work upon in any future search. Ufton and the coats-of-arms only complicate matters, except so far as the coats-of-arms seem to support the tradition of Nottinghamshire relationship, which is needed to connect the family of John of Ipswich with the Madresfield pedigree; without the Nottinghamshire tradition, even a *proved* descent from Newent would suggest no more than a *possible* remote descent from the *same stock* as the Ufton family.

CHAPTER XV.

EXTRACTS FROM A PRIVATE PROOF * * * OF THE PERKINS FAMILY
BY A. T. PERKINS, BOSTON, 1890

SOME MISTAKES CORRECTED

In the latter part of the long reign of King Edward the First, 1272-1307, Pierre de Morlaix, the ancestor of this family so far as known, was born, whether in England or at Morlaix in France is not ascertained.—Page 9.

Henry, the son of Pierre de Morlaix * * * is called in the documents Henry Pierrekins or Henry the son of Pierre.—Page 11.

This Henry Pierrekins held the position of High Steward for many years; he was married and had among other children a son John.—Page 11.

John Perkins, armiger, succeeded his father as High Steward, and is spoken of as a Seneschallus of Warwick Castle (page 12). His name often appears in the business matters which of necessity passed under his eyes at the marriage of Anne Beauchamp, the richest woman in England, to the King-maker, Earl of Warwick (page 13). This John Perkins * * * was married and had among other children a son named William (page 14). William Perkins and Margaret, his wife, had among other children a son Thomas (page 14). This Thomas Perkins, Esq., was married and amongst other children had a son John (page 15). This John Perkins, armiger, as he was called * * * married and had among other children a son Thomas.

Thomas Perkins, Esq., was married and among other children had two sons, Richard and William (page 16). The second son of Thomas Perkins, William by name, married a lady of the family of Welles (page 19). William had among other children a son Francis, who married Anne Plowden. Francis died 1615 (page 19). He had two sons, Francis and Edward. Edward, the younger son, married a Protestant lady named Elasa, against the wishes of his father, and died before him, leaving several children, who at the death of their grandfather got little of his estate, the bulk of which he devised to his eldest son Francis, who had married a rich woman, the heiress of Joseph Eaton, Esq., of Catmore (page 20). Edward * * * married and had among other children two sons, Edward and Edmund (page 20). The younger of these sons, Edmund, says the late W. H. Turner, Esq., of Oxford * * * seems to have lived with his grandfather for some time. He appears to have been sent on business connected with the family, to visit certain rather distant relatives living at Newent. While there he * * * married a kinswoman, Alice Perkins by name * * * by tradition a very beautiful young woman, and a Puritan with little or no fortune, and her marriage to Edmund in 1624 or '25, seems to have displeased the family at Ufton, who were enthusiastic Catholics. Edmund died a few years after, leaving his widow poorly provided for, and with three children, Alice, Ralph and Edmund (page 22).

Although we differ in some minor particulars, still I think we both agree that Pierre de Morlaix and his son, by his wife Alice Taylor, Henry Pierrekins as he was called, were the earliest ancestors of our race.—Letters Concerning the Perkins Family, p. 17.

Boston, March 14, 1891.

My Dear Mr. Perkins:

* * * Mr. Parkyns, Miss Sharp, Dr. George Perkins and you have certainly knocked some of my theories from under me with a vengeance, and I only

wish you had done it some months earlier, before my book was printed, for I should certainly have called a halt had I had matters put before me as I see them now; but it is all right, for in our matters nothing is of great importance, even if it is true, but it is worse than nothing, much worse, if it is not true.

Yours very truly,

(Signed)

A. T. PERKINS.

I notice in one book the author himself describes it as a collection of "*traditions*" known to be in some ways inaccurate, and he mentions that during three years he was entirely engrossed in very important business, had lost many of his papers, and that his memory was beginning to fail. Under such circumstances it would be wrong to be critical and genealogical mistakes are excusable.

Surely, some one must have been mistaken; when papers are lost and one has to rely on memory or perhaps a few rough notes, one is very apt to forget, after years, from whom certain items of information were obtained, and these details seem much more like traditions one would hear from a great-aunt than the work of a professional genealogist, who would be puzzled to name (as all genealogists do) the documents from which they are derived. Even a clever and highly accomplished man, with, no doubt, every wish to arrive at the accurate truth, may be misled if he allows his imagination to influence him, instead of sticking closely to the only things useful in genealogy, *dry, hard facts*.

But of all things I am most surprised to find that a professional genealogist whom I knew (and whom many others including Col. Chester knew much better) as a careful, plodding and reliable worker, going in for traditions of the Ufton family, of which *he never heard*, till I introduced him to it. He could not have found in any public record the details respecting the little boy living with his grandfather and being sent on business connected with the family to Newent, where he fell in love with his fair cousin, etc.

Pierre de Morlaix is very tempting; if we could only find him in any record, we should be quite sure that he was grandfather of Peter Morley, of whose existence (*outside the pedigree*) I am inclined to be skeptical. Pierre de Morlaix the Norman (or rather the Breton) high steward of the great Hugo DeSpencer, who was hanged in 1326, was neither in name, nationality nor date the same as Peter the Shropshire man who had the purely *Anglo Saxon* surname of "Morley" (big meadow) from one of three or four English villages, alias "Perkins," and was (according to the pedigree) only sergeant or steward to Hugo De Spencer of Shipton, County Oxford, who was a boy in 1326, and hardly known except to curious genealogists.

It is stated that Henry Perkins seems to have kept his head and his place as bailiff of Malvern Chase in 1326, at which date the son of Peter Perkins could hardly have been born, for Peter was (according to the pedigree) known to be living in 1381.

The "Pierrekings" question is a very old acquaintance. I knew it by

heart, before I had the pleasure of hearing from you. A friend of mine had many months' trouble and correspondence, from having accepted that and a good many other mistakes under the impression they were derived from so reliable an authority as a professional genealogist. I never before saw "Pierrekins" even in a printed book, and should have thought that even in documents about 1450, the name would be generally found abbreviated "Pkyns."

As shown in words and on the shield, the wife of Francis Perkins was not "a rich woman," the "heiress of Joseph Eaton, Esq., of Catmore"; she was simply Margaret, daughter of John Eyston, who happened to have been a comparatively poor man with a large family of sons and daughters.

You can trace how the mistakes arose. The original pedigree which Mr. Turner had sent had been mislaid (page 9) and a translation relied upon in which Edward was placed before Francis (as in the pedigree) and the "2 filius" below his name was omitted by mistake; and "Jo. Eston" was read "Joseph Eaton" instead of "John Eyston," while the two sons of Edward were added, suggestively and so on.

But at the time you suggested that Mr. A. T. Perkins had been misled by the conjectures of Messrs. Turner and Somerby, who believed that Edmund, son of Francis Perkins married Alice Perkins, you mentioned Mr. A. T. Perkins' very serious illness, of which I had heard from Miss Sharp. So I only answered your remark generally, that Mr. Turner, Mr. Somerby, Miss Sharp, myself and others had been misunderstood.

No doubt Mr. Somerby (of whom I do not remember having heard before) found an Edward Perkins, a friend of Felton (who assassinated the Duke of Buckingham, 1628), who, he believed, was the younger son of Francis, senior, of Ufton. But the younger son of Francis was named "Edmund," and this name was Latinized "Edwardus" in the Visitation pedigree of 1623.

This "Edwardus" translated back into English as "Edward" is said to have died before his father, not long after 1628, leaving among other children two sons, Edward and Edmund.

Now I will point out some mistakes which you are not likely to observe. In a former print was a somewhat romantic story of "Edward" the eldest son of Francis having married a Protestant against his father's wishes, etc., and the bulk of the estates being devised to the younger son Francis.

Attention was called to this mistake by a friend of mine and a correction made by simply changing the words "eldest" and "younger" to their proper places, so now, instead of the interesting romance of the elder son, disinherited for his religion, we have what seems a rather pointless story, for naturally, the bulk of the estate would go in those days to the eldest son, and even now the bulk of the land in entailed estates.

Edmund, the second son of Mr. Somerby's Edward, would have been a baby at this date if his father had been the younger son of Francis, who was born about 1556. You will find it so from the epitaphs which Mr. Turner sent out so long ago as 1872.

In sending the Ufton epitaphs, etc., he proved that the descent from Ufton, through Edward and Edmund, was a mistake.

Mr. Turner proved his honesty in sending my letter in my name; he could have obtained from me copies of or references to everything it contained and anything more he needed, and have taken credit for the whole. My letter to Mr. Turner would have shown that I had troubled myself and friends with fruitless search among the records of Military Engineers, and the extracts from my letters which you have seen more or less misprinted in the pamphlet show that my object was to help him as much as I could by directing him to various families which had an eagle in their coat-of-arms. We exchanged two or three more letters about that period, and some time after I or my late friend, Colonel J. L. Chester, sent him the name of *Edmund Perkins*, which the Colonel was himself hunting for.

From the Ufton Parish Register, which was recently discovered in the city of Salisbury, it appears that "Eleusa," wife of Edmund Perkins, died in 1615, and Francis, senior, in 1616. The "Edmunds" were probably confused, and Edward retained and his wife named "Elasa," thus giving the son's wife the date of "Eleusa's" death in 1615, and the same date to Francis, senior and junior, instead of 1616 and 1661. Mr. Somerby's opinion is stated and with great fairness there is put in the middle of it "Francis died 1615," which, of course, demolishes the expressed opinion.

If, after having made these corrections you will again read page 20, you will see how little of it has anything to do with Mr. Somerby, who probably only found an Edward Perkins who was in the expedition and a friend of Felton, while the rest, from time to time, was added from Turner's Ufton pedigree and other people's information, the whole in very confused form.

According to the pamphlet the husband of Alice was Edmund, son of Edward (not Francis) and it seems Mr. Somerby never heard of that marriage. Edmund Perkins was alive and in England in 1660 (not 1665), but he was not at all the Edmund Perkins said to have married Alice Perkins.

It should be ascertained in America whether there exists *proof*, not tradition, that Edmund Perkins of Boston was son of another Edmund; also his age or probable age, so far as could be found, from his birth, marriage or death, etc. Your remark that the part after Widow Alice is reliable suggests that you do not think the former part reliable. There is no suggestion that Alice was his second wife.

At a later date, a new copy of the pedigree referred to (page 21) was procured from Oxford and sent to America to show that it did not

mention "Pierre de Morlaix," nor the two sons of "Edward" Perkins, and the reply was, if I remember, that it was so recorded in America; and the sentence is repeated in the new edition. Another mistake was also noticed in the pedigree: "Edward" for "Edmund"; and the recent discovery in the city of Salisbury of a missing volume of the Ufton Parish Register was mentioned.

But it seems from your excellent notes, which Miss Sharp has sent me, that Edmund of Boston may have been born in America and son of Isaac and Alice Perkins. So you see how difficult it is to form any opinion even on what seems, *prima facie*, a very strong case.

I have to thank you for your letter of the 13th of January with a copy of Mr. A. T. Perkins' new print, which appears in most respects the same as the one I have seen with a few additions. I am sincerely sorry to have such bad news concerning him, for though I never corresponded with him, I have so long heard of him as interested in genealogy that it seemed like an old acquaintance gone, and the news of his death caused me sincere regret.

I find in an index to a genealogical collection published in the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* (Vol. VIII., page 100) an account of the Perkins family. I have not seen the article but probably you have.

In the missing letter I gave the name and address of the lady who is engaged on the History of Ufton, and told you she was not publishing by subscription. When I heard from her that you had written to her I naturally concluded that you had received my letter and her address. I suppose she wrote you herself; she was staying here on a visit and I showed her your letter and pamphlet.

Miss Sharp's book will, I hope, be of great help to you, and it will not in any way interfere with your publishing as soon as you like, even at the same time. You are on two distinct lines, as distinct as Dr. George A. Perkins' Family History.

Her book will contain in addition to the Ufton history, pedigrees of five or six other families in different parts of England—the work of the old Heralds, with in most cases large additions from wills, etc. Your work is the most interesting link between Miss Sharp's and Dr. George A. Perkins', and in an entirely different line. You deal with the unrecorded junior branches in England, and through them join the American family with the recorded English families. It will be wanted, to complete the series and make the other two more interesting and valuable.

CHAPTER XVI.

THE WARWICK CASTLE TRADITION

My grandfather * * * really cared nothing about such matters, but he confirmed or rejected certain traditions, related by his sister, Madam Forbes.

Some forty years ago my great aunt, Mrs. Forbes, with my aunt, Mrs. Thomas Graves Cary, came on a visit to my mother, then at our country place at Swan Island, in the Kennebec River.

Madam Forbes was an admirable story teller, and I remember how she used to entertain us all, as we sat in the great porch overlooking the river on a moonlight night, by capping my mother's stories with her own, which to me were most interesting. Her most astounding tradition, as I look back upon it, was that our family owned, or perhaps it was only held, Warwick Castle in the olden time.—The Perkins Family, a Private Proof, Preface.

James³ Perkins (Edmund², Edmund¹) was a strenuous patriot. In 1771 he went to England and took with him my grandfather, a child of only eight years of age. One of the first things he did when he went to England was to visit Warwick Castle, and he talked much of it to my grandfather, who was too young to remember all about it, except that he got the idea that in olden times our family had a great deal to do with the property.

Yet here perhaps was the nucleus of the seemingly most absurd tradition remembered by Aunt Forbes, that our family in the olden time held Warwick Castle.—The Perkins Family, a Private Proof, page 31.

I could not quite understand how the traditions that John Perkins was Bailiff of Malvern Chase and Steward of Hanley Castle, and at the same time Seneschal of Warwick, until I studied the matter on the spot.

Anne Beauchamp and her brother were both born and brought up at Hanley Castle. When Anne married the famous King-maker, she removed to Warwick Castle, only thirty miles away, and there lived until after the battle of Barnet. It would be natural that she should take with her a tried retainer who had served her for years and who was evidently devoted to her interest.—The Perkins Family, a Private Proof, page 16.

A "most astounding tradition" continued in one, or the other, American family of Perkins till quite recently, if not till now, but which to me appears not at all astounding, was this: that "*our family once held Warwick Castle.*"

Traditions are not often *invented*, but they are generally very dreamy and improbable (like this and some others related) but like dreams they generally arise from *something* and it is interesting and sometimes useful to trace their origin and growth. This one seems perfectly simple. In 1645-6 John Perkins of Ipswich, Mass., heard of a gallant defense of a castle by a grandson of Richard Parkyns of Bunny, Nottinghamshire, which he "*held to the last,*" gaining honor from enemies as well as from friends, a romantic story.

Somebody (and who but John Perkins?) said that the Governor was of "our family." In a generation or two names and dates would be forgotten, but the story of "a castle held by our family" would

remain. One of the Boston family touring in England would naturally pay a visit to *Warwick Castle* (an historical show-place commonly visited by Americans and English), and would afterwards tell his children all about it and its history and mention "one of our family once held a castle."

If you know children as well as I do, you will know that they would mix up their father's anecdotes; and, in after years, they would *conscientiously* believe that their father told them "that one of our family held *Warwick Castle*." So it would pass to their descendants, and my letter to Mr. Turner (nearly twenty years ago! how fast the time flies!) would seem to confirm the tradition by mentioning that John Perkins was seneschal to Thomas DeSpencer; and that (long after, when one and the other, probably, were dead) there was a marriage by which the estate of the DeSpencers passed to the Warwick family.

You think that the Warwick Castle tradition points to a Warwickshire family as the right one to connect with. But that story is told only as a characteristic portrait of that very clever and amusing old lady, Madam Forbes, who apparently (like her brother) really cared nothing about such matters and good-humoredly enjoyed poking fun at people who did. She was an "admirable story-teller," and used to entertain them all by ("capping" Mrs. Perkins' stories about her ancestors. Mrs. Perkins told of the defense of Mont Orgueil Castle by a Dumaresq; Madam Forbes capped it with her "most astounding tradition" about her ancestors and Warwick Castle.

Mrs. Perkins, perhaps, told of some feat of strength by a Dumaresq and so led Madam Forbes to tell how Edmund Perkins lifted and removed the anchor which weighed a thousand pounds, and when joked by Mrs. Cary, "the brisk old lady would not abate an ounce of it." A very clever and amusing old lady she was, and perhaps with her inherited cleverness and not caring about such matters, she had an inclination to have a little quiet fun, in a good-humored way, at the expense of those who really did care for them.

Mr. A. T. Perkins tells plainly there was no sort of a foundation for the "Warwick Castle" story except that Madam Forbes' father in 1771, paying the customary tourist's visit to Warwick Castle with her brother, then seven years old (born 1764) talked about the castle to the child, who was too young to remember all about it except he got the idea in old times our family once held Warwick Castle.

The father died in 1773, when the boy was only nine and the future Madam Forbes perhaps three or four years older, and her joke against Mrs. Perkins was "about forty years ago" — that is about eighty years after her child brother got the idea, etc., in 1771. I do not think such "traditions" need disturb you in your genealogical researches.

There were, no doubt, many John Perkins alive in 1449, and if we could trace one of the name in any record of Warwick Castle doings at that date it would be most interesting from the probability that he

was a son of John Perkins (the seneschal), who, we know, must have been a man of considerable age in 1398, especially if he was "seneschallus" of Warwick Castle, as well as high steward of Thomas DeSpencer, Earl of Gloucester.

This last is evidently a "tradition" and a mistake. There was no connection between the DeSpencers and Warwick Castle till twenty-four or twenty-five years after the death of Thomas DeSpencer, when his daughter Isabel married her *second husband*, Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick.

The statement that Peter DeMauley's grandson's name, John Perkins, often appears in the business matters which of necessity passed under his eyes at the marriage of Anne Beauchamp, etc., is erroneous. We do not know the date of the marriage, except that it must have been about 1450, when John Perkins, if alive, must have been an old man, at least ninety, and probably one hundred years old, and after the death of his son and the birth of his great-grandson. The date of her marriage is assumed to have been about 1450, when Anne succeeded to the estates and was twenty years old. The latest that we (in England) know of John Perkins is that he was alive just fifty years before that date, 1399.

CHAPTER XVII.

"THE INN PLAY OR CORNISH HUG WRESTLER, LONDON, 1727.

THOMAS WEEKS"

I have a copy of this book which evidently once belonged to Edmund Perkins, 2d, with his daughter Mary's name in it. It was sold at Reading by a bookseller named Humphrey Wainwright, and sent by him to a Mr. Wainwright of Ipswich, Mass., for *Mr. Edmund Parkyns* of Boston.—The Perkins Family, a Private Proof, page 28.

Just before I received your letter I heard from my correspondent that a book on wrestling, by an ancestor of mine, Sir Thomas Parkyns of Bunny, Nottinghamshire, published in 1720, was sent in 1727, by Humphrey Wainwright (steward to the head of the Nottinghamshire family) to Mr. Wainwright of Boston, U. S. A., for Mr. Edmund Parkyns of Boston, who was related to Wainwright and was the son of another Edmund Perkins, a relation of John Perkins of Newent, who emigrated in 1630. The Wainwrights probably emigrated several years before 1667 (when Jacob Perkins married Sarah Wainwright) and considerably before either Sir Thomas Parkyns or Humphrey Wainwright was born.

I observe your notes on English families do not give any references; both dates and references should always be given. It appears from some of the publications, etc., you have sent me that everything and everybody of the name is attributed to *Ufton*, and it is not surprising that in books, pamphlets and letters we find traditions of the Nottinghamshire family transferred to Ufton. The pedigrees of "Parkyns" (in the College of Arms) are said to be Ufton pedigrees; Sir Thomas Parkyns (the wrestler) appears to be the first of the Ufton family who changed his name to Parkyns; the wrestling at Ufton Court where Sir Thomas is said to have thrown a man over the terrace; his steward Humphrey Wainwright is fixed as a bookseller of Ufton (since Reading, near Ufton); Sir William "Perkins" (who wrote his name "Parkyns") is stated a member of the Ufton family, and so on.

Without a particular reason it is not likely that some seventy or eighty years after their emigration their descendant would have written to Humphrey Wainwright that they had a distant connection (Edmund Perkins) who was fond of wrestling, nor is it probable that the book would have been heard of in America and sent for; nor that it would have been sent for at all; nor that the mistake of "Parkyns" for "Perkins" would have occurred in 1727, from a well-educated man like Humphrey Wainwright, who knew both names intimately.

The accuracy of the above statements can only be tested in America; but taken together as I have received them, they seem to point clearly to a long existing belief in your family that your ancestor descended

from and was related to the Nottinghamshire family and that such belief was founded on or supported by communications with Humphrey Wainwright of Bunny, or not improbably with the wrestler himself. I do not think your ancestor descended from Nottinghamshire, but I can see how the "wrestler" himself might have believed it.

My correspondent heard it from Mr. A. T. Perkins of Boston, but they missed one point — the book was sold by Humphrey Wainwright at *Bunny in Nottinghamshire*, which parish and several others adjoining belonged at that date to his patron, Sir Thomas Parkyns, known as the "wrestler."

So we have proof of direct communication between Boston, U. S. A., and Bunny, Nottinghamshire, before (and very likely long before) 1720, which was the date of the book which would not have been sent "for Mr. Edmund Parkyns" if Humphrey Wainwright had not heard of him before.

I think if Mr. Perkins had shown his book with the proof of its sending to the Heraldry committee they would have held it the very best clue you possess. His grandfather, Edmund Perkins (the younger) believed in the Nottinghamshire family, and told it to the Wainwrights of Ipswich, Mass., and through them to Humphrey Wainwright of Bunny.

If I could see a correct tracing or *fac simile* of the address, I think I could say whether it was written by Sir Thomas Parkyns or by Humphrey Wainwright — I know the handwriting of both.

In each of my letters I have referred to this book on wrestling, sent by Humphrey Wainwright through Mr. Wainwright of Ipswich for his cousin, Mr. Edmund Parkyns of Boston, which is told as a fact (proved by the book which he has) and not a tradition. It seems to me an important clue, but appears to have escaped your notice, as you have not noticed it in reply. All my "theories" are based on big *ifs*! I want you to dispute them. Why did I repeat the Humphrey Wainwright incident in every letter? To get your opinion of it.

I cannot dispute American "*facts*." Mr. Perkins states distinctly as a fact that he has the book and that it was sent by Humphrey Wainwright for Mr. Edmund Perkins. It is not impossible John Wainwright of Ipswich may have written to Humphrey Wainwright, just as you have written to me. *If true* it was a most important clue. I wanted your opinion; well, I have it now, and it agrees with what I have held from the first, viz.: that it is very *improbable*.

In after years when a new edition of the book was published, Sir Thomas Parkyns might (as Mr. Perkins suggests) have sent a copy to his American cousin, who was fond of the art, and purposely, in a good-humored way, have spelled the name Parkyns.

CHAPTER XVIII.

THE NEWENT TRADITION

The ecclesiastical society in this place was organized in 1723, and the affairs of the society were entirely under the control of the Perkins family (page 277).

The new society took the name of Newent, in fond remembrance of a town of that name in Gloucestershire, England, from which the ancestors of Joseph and Jabez Perkins originally emigrated (page 280).—History of Norwich, Conn., by Miss F. M. Caulkins, 1845.

Family traditions, as a rule, are more likely to mislead than to assist. They generally point to the best known family. I am inclined to believe in Newent because it does not. It is a small, out-of-the-way place, hardly known by name to anyone who has not been in its neighborhood, and it is difficult to believe it could have found its way into a family tradition without some reason.

No known family of Perkins lived there; if a very distinguished family of the name had lived in Newent, Miss Caulkins might have been suspected of wishing to pay that family a compliment; with no such apparent object, she would not be likely to risk being contradicted by someone who might know another reason for the name of the "Newent Society." It was no doubt named after the former home of some person or persons interested in its foundation, and from what you say it appears the Perkins family had control of it.

Sailing from Bristol suggests a west country origin, and it is the port from which anyone from Newent would sail—thirty or forty miles of water carriage by the Severn would be convenient for the family and baggage. I do not know how those things were managed in those days, but unless in the case of a large scheme of emigration, such as the Pilgrim Fathers, how would a man, say a farmer, living in a small village in an out-of-the-way inland county, as in the neighborhood of Newent, be at all likely to hear of the arrival and sailing of the "Lyon of Bristowe," or any other vessel, in those days? Even now it would be difficult.

It is true the neighborhood of Newent has not been properly exploited, but my opinion was and is that the Newent descent appears very probable from what you mentioned and from the fact that there seem to have been several families of the name in that neighborhood. If you have searched the Parish Registers and found no Perkins at Newent, it would only prove that your ancestor was not born, nor married, nor had any children there. He may have lived there from infancy to emigration without leaving a trace in the Registers.

Altogether "Newent" suggests a probable descent from some of the branches of that neighborhood and *related* to the *Nottinghamshire* family, though probably *not* descended from Nottinghamshire.

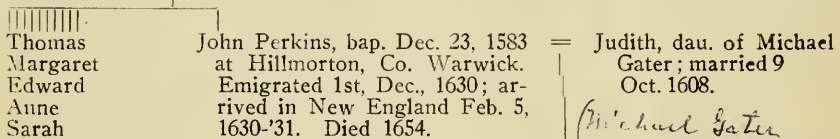
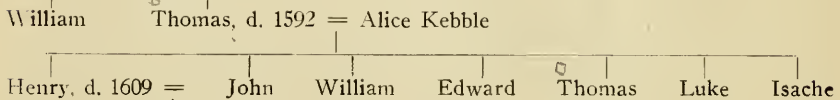
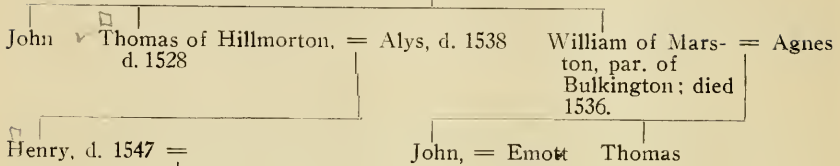
CHAPTER XIX.

JOHN PERKINS, SENIOR

TENTATIVE PEDIGREE

Lichfield Wills, Hillmorton Parish Register.

*William of Warwickshire, 1495 =



Thomas Perkins, bapt. Dec. 23, 1583 at Hillmorton, Co. Warwick. Emigrated 1st, Dec., 1630; arrived in New England Feb. 5, 1630-'31. Died 1654.

John Perkins, bapt. Nov. 8, 1609, at Hillmorton.
 Elizabeth, bapt. Mar. 3rd, 1611, at Hillmorton.
 Mary, bapt. Sept. 3rd, 1615, at Hillmorton.
 Ann, bapt. Sept. 5th, 1617, at Hillmorton.
 Thomas, bapt. Apr. 28, 1622, at Hillmorton.
 Jacob, bapt. Sept. 12th, 1624, at Hillmorton.
 Lydia, bapt. June 3rd, 1632, at Boston, Mass.

The first mention of any immigrant of the name of Perkins in New England that the writer has met with is the following item:
 (February 5, 1631). "The ship Lyon, Mr. William Peirce master, arrived at Nantasket. She brought Mr. Williams (a godly minister) with his wife, Mr. Throgmorton, — Perkins, — Ong, and others, with their wives and children, about twenty passengers, and about two hundred tons of goods. She set sail from Bristol, December 1. She had a very tempestuous passage, yet, through God's mercy, all her people came safe, except Way, his son, who fell from the spritsail yard in a tempest, and could not be recovered, though he kept in sight near a quarter of an hour. Her goods also came all in good condition."—Winthrop's History of New England, Vol. 1, page 42.
 Gov. Thomas Dudley's Letter to the Countess of Lincoln, March, 1631, supplies additional particulars of the voyage, as follows:

"Upon the 5 of February arrived here Mr. Peirce with the shipp Lyon of Bristow with supplies of victualls from England who had sett fourth from Bristow the first of December before. Hee had a stormy passage hether, and lost one of his saylors not farr from our shore who in a tempest having helped to take in the spirit saile lost his hold as hee was comeigne downe and fell into the sea, where after long swimming hee was drowned, to the great dolour of those in the shipp, who beheld so lamentable a spectacle, without being able to minister help to him. The sea was soe high and the shipp drove so fast before the wind, though her sailes were taken down.

* * * "And by the reports of those who came hether in this shipp to abide with us (which were about 26) that those who went discontentedly from us last yeare, * * * have raised many false and scandalous reports against us.

Having followed up the clues to the four families mentioned in the text the following incomplete list of the passengers of the Lyon has been made up:

Mr. Roger Williams.

Mrs. Mary Williams, his wife.

Mr. John Throgmorton.

John Perkins, aged 47.

Judith Perkins, his wife, aged 42.

John Perkins, Jr., son of John and Judith, aged 22.

Elizabeth Perkins, daughter of John and Judith, aged 20. *71. 22. 1630*

Mary Perkins, daughter of John and Judith, aged 15.

Ann Perkins, daughter of John and Judith, aged 13.

Thomas Perkins, son of John and Judith, aged 9.

Jacob Perkins, son of John and Judith, aged 3.

—— Onge.

Frances Onge, his wife.

Simon Onge, son of —— and Frances, aged 6.

Jacob Onge, son of —— and Frances, aged ——

Thus accounting for fifteen out of the twenty-six passengers.

I have nothing that would help you directly to John Perkins, senior. But for Colonel Chester's researches I should have very strongly suspected that he was a certain John Parkyns, third son of my ancestor Richard of Bunny, who dying in 1603, left John Parkyns estates in Herefordshire, within fifteen miles of Newent, and whose career was not traced till Colonel Chester found that he died young and a bachelor in London in 1630.

You mention in your notes that "scarcely a year had elapsed since John Winthrop and his followers began the settlement of Boston." How would John Perkins in the neighborhood of Newent be likely to have heard of the new colony? May not John Perkins of Ipswich, Mass. (or his father) have settled in Bristol? Possibly you might find traces of him, his marriage or births of his children at Bristol, and thence track him to his Newent home.

Let us look at it! We had traditions of descent from Newent and of relationship to Nottinghamshire supporting each other, and several of the American family agree in the belief that John Perkins hailed from Newent or some village near it, and one of them goes farther and names the house in which John Perkins lived in Newent. I think you prefer some village near it.

If John Perkins were of the Madresfield pedigree branch, he was very likely to know that he was nearly related to Richard Parkyns of Nottinghamshire, who was well known and, no doubt, occasionally visited three places where he had property, and a fourth where his mother's family lived, all within twelve or fifteen miles of Newent, and he may have seen him, for Richard Parkyns lived to 1603, was an important person of his time in wealth and position, and in later times John Perkins, talking about his English relations, may have remembered and mentioned him. On the other hand, if he knew of relationship to the Nottinghamshire family, it would be nearly proof positive that he was from the neighborhood of Newent, and of the Madresfield branch, because he could not otherwise have known it. I think he knew it, partly from the tradition that our family once held Warwick Castle.

The name of "John Perkins" would be exceedingly difficult to trace.

In my first letter to you I pointed out the difficulty of tracing John Perkins without a clue, and I have been so fully engaged discussing coats-of-arms, Ufton pedigrees and traditions of ancestors who owned Warwick Castle that I have almost overlooked the main point and never asked you whether with such clues any steps had been taken to find John Perkins, senior, and if so with what result.

But though I have scarcely had time to more than observe it, and have barely hinted it to you from the information I have since gleaned, it is no longer a question of *John Perkins* without a clue, but of John Perkins born about 1590, wife named *Judith*, five children of John and Judith Perkins born in England before 1631, names known, and probably others who died in infancy and were buried in England; relations Isaac and others — all this news to me since my first letter to you. To trace historically the English ancestry of John Perkins, the first American settler of the name in New England, the great thing is to start from some proved certainty in America, and you must assume nothing.

The best course appears to me, as I have said, to establish so far as possible in America the relation with the less frequent name of Edmund, and collect all dates and facts, and surnames of persons related in England; distinguishing what is *proved* from what is *believed*. And the fact that John Perkins, senior, had land at Ipswich, adjoining the land of William, though perhaps only a coincidence, and originating from the same neighborhood, and the similarity of name, might suggest that they at least supposed they were related; you do not appear to think him so.

So you would have a certain clue without which I fear your search in England would be difficult. It may be supposed that one hundred seventy to two hundred years ago your family had clues to their ancestor's descent which have been lost at any rate in your branch of the family, though possibly still existing in America.

The large number of Perkins emigrants to one colony leads, no doubt, to Dr. George A. Perkins' opinion, that "without doubt" they were all of one stock. He had reason to believe that John, Isaac and Abraham were brothers or cousins, and from the Scriptural names it certainly seems probable. We must allow some generations for cousins with those Scriptural names, which are not found in any pedigree of the name. This matter seems worth attention in seeking a clue; and the indices to wills confirm what I have told you of the rarity of Scriptural names — which is an advantage to you as a clue; besides the surnames of relations or connections of the first emigrant are most valuable clues. There were so many persons of the name it would be desirable to trace in America the actual relationship that existed between them. Some of the early emigrants who sailed in the same ship might possibly have emigrated from the same neighborhood. One of them was — Onge (peculiar name), whose children bore Scriptural names. I do not know the name in England and cannot suggest a derivation unless from "Ange," which I found in Berry and Burke. Was it possibly so copied from an old abbreviated document "Onge" for "Orange" or "Oreng"? I fear the name "Ouge" will not help you to "Onge," for both Berry and Burke have "Ouge" with coat-of-arms complete, and I have no doubt it is a corrupted form of a well-known ancient name. I forget if I asked you before about Onge; his children bore the same Scriptural names, which suggest Puritan tendencies.

Dr. George A. Perkins' excellent Genealogy of the Perkins Family seems to tell plainly that neither John Perkins, senior, of Ipswich, nor his immediate descendants claimed a coat-of-arms, describing themselves as "*yeomen*," and sealing deeds, not with a seal of arms, and you cite a deed to his son, Quartermaster John, which, as you point out, supports my assertion. I only mentioned what appears to me so clearly stated and demonstrated in the pamphlet you sent me and your notes and letters as to leave no room for even my opinion.

One word seems to suggest that you have some doubt as to the position of a "*yeoman*." You say, "although Isaac³ (Quartermaster John², John¹, senior) usually styled himself "*yeoman*," he was known as *Mr.* Isaac Perkins, a title then given to those who were most prominent and respectable, "*goodman*" being the common appellation.

No doubt he was called "*Mr.*" because he was a "*yeoman*," which was a most prominent and respectable position; especially in a settlement where Dukes and Earls and such cattle were probably not as frequent as in London. Perhaps some men not so qualified were from courtesy called "*yeomen*" by their neighbors, but Isaac³ Perkins, his son Abraham⁴, and his grandson James⁵,* (who removed to Lyme, Conn..

*Isaac⁶ Perkins, fifth son of James⁵, died in 1776, from sickness or the result of wounds received in the Revolutionary War; his son David Lord⁷ Perkins settled in Utica, N. Y., in 1824, and the latter's son David⁸ was an alderman in that city in 1852, and City Clerk in 1857-8 and 1864-5.

in April, 1736) were so described in legal documents, evidently drawn up by lawyers or persons acquainted with all the technical requirements of the law, and in those days strictly accurate description was more required than now. In those deeds he and his son were both styled "*Mr.*"; then (Feb. 21, 1717-18) *Mr. Isaac Perkins*, or (Jany. 23, 1732-33) *Mr. Abraham Perkins* "personally appeared and acknowledged ye above written instrument with his name and seal affixed thereunto to be his voluntary act and deed."

Not a neighborly compliment, but consistent with the description of "yeoman" and the position represented by it. None of the deeds were sealed with coats-of-arms (that would have been a contradiction) for "yeoman" signifies a person who did not use a coat-of-arms in America, I find, as well as in England, in those days. Therefore, you see, I asserted nothing; your pamphlet *tells me* that Isaac Perkins, his son and grandson, did not use a coat-of-arms.

But you say "goodman was the common appellation" (for a less prominent person than "*Mr.*") and you mention that John, senior, was called "goodman" Perkins in the records, while several other records quoted by Dr. George A. Perkins show that he was called "John Perkins," but never "*Mr.*", even in the same sentence with Mr. Conant, Mr. Robert Coles, etc. Therefore you tell me that John Perkins, senior, held a less prominent position than his grandson Isaac, and the inventory of his estate confirms it.

On the other hand, I have not found a single hint in the books or pamphlets sent me that John Perkins, senior, or any of his line used a coat-of-arms or claimed to be entitled to heraldic "gentrie" without which he could not (according to the law of arms) have used a coat-of-arms, till his great-grandson, Dr. John⁴ Perkins (Abraham³, Quartermaster John², John¹, senior) whose degree entitled him (to use it).

Since the foregoing letters were written the discovery has been made that John Perkins, the emigrant of 1630, was a native of Hillmorton, Warwickshire, the Parish Register of that parish having been found to contain the records of his baptism, of his marriage, and of the baptisms of his six children who were born in England. In his will, which was made and proved in 1654, he names his three sons in the following order: John, Thomas and Jacob; and his daughters as follows: Elizabeth, Mary and Ann, presumably in the order, respectively, of seniority; and a glance at the tentative pedigree will show that the entries were so made.

The Parish Register, which commences in 1564, has never been properly and carefully examined for Perkins entries, and it is hoped a complete copy, "*verbatim et literatim*," can be made (as the original is becoming illegible and is liable to destruction), "sent over," and thus preserve the valuable family records it contains.



WARWICKSHIRE IN 1630

"The Heart of England"

(Hillmorton, from whence John Perkins emigrated, 1630, is near Rugby)

I can sincerely endorse all the good you say of Dr. George A. Perkins. I can judge of his character by his work. His family history is a *great* example of careful, able and conscientious endeavor to arrive at the Truth. In those respects he has one comfort, that when he gives up his "labor of love" it will be continued ably and conscientiously by you. But though he has reached a good age, it is not, now-a-days, a great age, and we may hope that you will yet have his assistance in your work.

If you are writing to him, give him from the *old* country and one of the *old* family the following quotation, the concluding sentence of the Dedication to George II., of the wrestling book of which you have heard as "Sold by Humphrey Wainwright, 1727."

"May you Live — Live — Live — till with old Father Abraham you shall say (though to our Great Loss) Cupimus Dissolvi, and from thence be translated into those Eternal Serene Habitations of Peace and Tranquillity where you may be and live forever Transcendently Happy."

OXFORD MATRICULATIONS

By W. H. Turner, of Oxford, England

Date	Student	Age	Parent	Rank	Place	College
1581 Nov. 24	John	19	— Parkins	Pleb.	Co. Dorset	Jesus
1581 Dec. 1	John	16	— Perkins	"	Co. Gloucester	St. Albans Hall
1582 May 31	Matthew	14	— Parkin	"	City of London	Christchurch
1587 July 6	Thomas	35	— Perkins	Serv.	of Dr. Underhill	Rtr of Lincoln
1587 Dec. 1	Abel	17	— Parkins	Pleb.	Co. Dorset	Oriel
1593-4 Feb. 22	William	17	— Parkings	Genl.	Co. Cornwall	Exeter
1608 July 1	William	18	— Perkins	Pleb.	Co. Westmoreland	Queens
1629 Dec. 4	Edward	17	Edward Perkins	"	Ockingham, Berks.	Mag. Hall
1633 Dec. 6	Timothy	15	Henry Perkins	"	Hinton, N'thampton	Lincoln
1633 Dec. 13	Richard	17	William Parkins	"	Ashby, Lincoln	Lincoln
1639 Dec. 6	Benjamin	16	Edward Perkins	"	Ockingham, Berks.	Mag. Hall
1642 Apr. 1	John	17	William Parkins	Genl.	Marston, Warwick	Wadham
1651 May 12	John	—	— Perkins	"	"	St. Johns
1655 Nov. 7	John	—	— Perkins	Pleb.	"	St. Johns
1655 Nov. 7	Theophieus	—	— Parkyns	Genl.	Bunny, Notts.	Wadham
1655 Nov. 7	Thomas	—	— Parkyns	"	Bunny, Notts.	Wadham
1663 July 17	William	18	Henry Perkins	Pleb.	Hanley, Dorset.	New Inn Hall
1663-4 Mar. 18	George	18	George Perkins	"	Slimbridge, Glou.	Mag. Coll.
1668 May 7	John	15	Th. Perkins	"	Studley, Warwick	Mag. Hall
1675 July 16	Joseph	18	George Perkins	"	Slimbridge, Glou.	Oriel
1682 Mar. 31	Mark	18	M. Perkins	"	Sidbury, Devon.	Exeter
1687 June 14	James	14	Nath'l Parkyns	Genl.	Molesey, Surrey	Trinity
1694-5 Mar. 16	Thomas	16	Thomas Parkyns	"	London	Pembroke
1696 Mar. 31	John	18	Thomas Perkins	"	Brosot, Warwick	Balliol
1696 Oct. 10	Christopher	18	Edmund Perkins	"	St. Nill	Jesus
1698 Apr. 7	John	17	J. Parkins	Pleb.	Co. Durham	Lincoln
1714 Oct. 26	Henry	15	Thomas Perkins	Genl.	Hillmorton, Warw'k	Trinity
1714-5 Mar. 17	Samuel	18	Thomas Perkins	"	Pelsdon, Dorset.	Wadham
1720 Apr. 7	John Bateman	14	John Parkins	"	St. Martin, London	Merton
1727 Oct. 24	Daniel	19	James Perkins	Pleb.	Alerby, Cumberland	Queens
1734 July 4	William	18	William Perkins	"	London	St. Johns
1742 June 3	Thomas	19	Thomas Parkins	"	Hull, Yorks.	Lincoln
1743-4 Mar. 15	Edmund	18	James Perkins	Arm.	Wington, Hants.	St. Marys Hall
1763 Mar. 14	William	19	Hutton Perkins	Genl.	Barnards Cstl, Dur.	Lincoln
1772 June 4	John	18	John Perkins	"	St. Neots Hunt. In.	Worcester
1784 Mar. 24	Christopher	17	Thomas Parkins	Clk.	Chesham, Bucks.	University
1784 Oct. 12	John David	20	John Perkins	Arm.	Staines, Middlesex	Magdalen
1784 Oct. 27	Shirley F. S.	16	Sam'l S. Perkins	Genl.	Orton or Hill, Leic.	Trinity
1841 June 12	Wm. Trevor	19	Chris'er Parkins	Clk.	Gresford, Denbigh	Merton
1809 Oct. 21	Wm. Trevor	18	Wm. T. Parkins	Arm.	London	Balliol

PERSONS OF THE NAME OF PERKINS

(Variously Spelled)

- Parkens, 9.
 Parkin, 8, 53, 85.
 Parkin, Thomas (2), 41.
 Parkinge, 53.
 Parkins, (5) 8, (8) 9, (6) 10, (2) 11,
 (5) 12, (2) 19, 20, 21, (2) 22, (2) 23,
 (2) 24, 25, (3) 27, (3) 28, (2) 30, 33,
 (2) 43, (2) 44, 45, (2) 85.
 Parkins, Abel, 85.
 Parkins, Christopher, 19, 44, 48, (3) 54,
 (3) 55, 85.
 Parkins, Humphrey, (2) 45, (4) 46.
 Parkins, James, 44, 45, (2) 46).
 Parkins, John, (3) 85.
 Parkins, Nathaniel, 85.
 Parkins, Osbert, 34.
 Parkins, Richard, 10, (2) 23, (3) 44,
 (2) 46, 85.
 Parkins, Thomas, 23, 41, (3) 44, (2) 46,
 (6) 85.
 Parkins, William, 23, (3) 44, 46, 85.
 Parkins, William Trevor (3), 85.
 Parkyn, (2) 7, (3) 8, 38.
 Parkynes, 52.
 Parkynes, Alice, 52.
 Parkynes, Edmund, 52.
 Parkynes, Ralph, 52.
 Parkings, William, 85.
 Parkyns, (2) 8, (5) 9, (2) 19, 20, (2) 28,
 30, (2) 39, 48, 49, 52, 56, (3) 60, 64,
 (2) 65, 67.
 Parkyns, Edmund, 17, (2) 75, (2) 76.
 Parkyns, Elizabeth, 55.
 Parkyns, Emote, 48.
 Parkyns, Francis, 9, (3) 10, (2) 17, 18,
 34, 44.
 Parkyns, George, (2) 19.
 Parkyns, James, 52.
 Parkyns, John, 13, 36, (5) 38, (3) 39,
 41, 46, 48, 53, (2) 79.
 Parkyns, Nathaniel, 52.
 Parkyns, Richard (Bunny), (4) 17, 1',
 20, 22, 29, (2) 31, 32, (2) 41, 50, 72,
 79, (2) 80.
 Parkyns, Richard (Mattisfeide), (3) 17,
 (2) 44.
 Parkyns, Richard (Ufton), (4) 17, 21,
 (2) 41.
 Parkyns, Theophilus, 85.
 Parkyns, Thomas, 29, (2) 40, (4) 41,
 52, 60, (2) 64, 65, (3) 75, (2) 76,
 (3) 85.
 Parkyns, William, 24, 35, 38, (5) 40,
 (2) 48, (2) 52.
 Perkin, (2) 7, (5) 8, 10, 11, 22, 23, (2)
 24, (2) 37, 38, 43, (3) 44, 46, 48, 51.
 Perkin, Francis, 23, 44, 46.
 Perkin, Humphrey, 23, (2) 46.
 Perkin, James, 13, (2) 46.
 Perkins, (5) 8, (3) 9, (6) 10, (2) 11,
 (5) 12, (2) 19, 20, 21, (2) 22, (2) 23,
 (2) 24, 25, (3) 27, (3) 28, (2) 30, 33,
 (3) 45, 35, 36, (7) 37, (4) 38, 39, 44,
 (3) 45, (3) 49, (2) 50, (2) 51, 52, (3)
 53, (3) 55, (3) 56, (4) 61, 62, (2) 65,
 72, (2) 76, (2) 77, (2) 78, 81, 82,
 (5) 85.
 Perkins, Abraham, (3) 12, 13, 27, 53,
 (2) 81, (2) 82.
 Perkins, Alice, (2) 67, 69, (3) 70, 71, 78.
 Perkins, Anna, Anne, 34, (2) 78, 79, 82.
 Perkins, Augustus T., 6, 16, (2) 30, (2)
 31, 32, (2) 33, (2) 36, 67, 68, (2) 69,
 71, 73, 76.
 Perkins, Beamsley, (3) 25, 27, 29.
 Perkins, Beatrice, 59.
 Perkins, Benjamin, 42, 85.
 Perkins, Christopher, 46, 53, (2) 54,
 (2) 85.
 Perkins, Daniel, 85.
 Perkins, David, 81.
 Perkins, David Lord, 81.
 Perkins, Edmund, 27, 29, 30, (6) 31, 32,
 (2) 42, (6) 56, (11) 57, 64, (5) 67,
 (3) 69, (9) 70, (2) 71, (2) 72, (3) 73,
 (2) 75, (2) 76, 80, (2) 85.
 Perkins, Edward, 34, 41, (2) 42, 57,
 (2) 59, (3) 67, (7) 69, (4) 70, (2) 71,
 (2) 78, (3) 85.
 Perkins, Elasa, 70.
 Perkins, Eleusa, (2) 70.
 Perkins, Elias, (2) 63.
 Perkins, Emot, 78.
 Perkins, Elizabeth, 34, 51, (2) 78, 79, 82.
 Perkins, Frances, 34.
 Perkins, Francis, (2) 10, (4) 34, 42,
 (4) 67, (6) 69, (5) 70, 78.
 Perkins, George, (2) 55, 58, (3) 85.
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